

Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Registered Charity Number 1160504



Annual Reports 2023

This report was produced by combining a number of documents. Editor : Russ Hore 28th March 2023

OVMRCIO Chair's Annual Report 2023 Chris Lloyd

I was elected as Chairman at the Annual General Meeting, held on 6th. April. There was not a great rush by members to stand for this position. Becoming a full member in March 1977 and now being retired, I felt obliged to "throw my hat into the ring". It was the only one! Previously, I have served OVMRCIO as Chairman on a couple of occasions in my decades with the Team.

I cannot write about the work of the Chair for the first quarter, but I know that the workload was a busy one. I inherited some unfinished business and working with the new Board of Trustees and the new Committee, we tidied up loose ends.

Post Covid, post lock downs, war in Eastern Europe, high fuel costs, inflation: a new world in 2022. We suffered some severe and damaging storms; we endured periods of drought and some people even complained about long periods of glorious sunshine. The extremes were reflected in the workload of this Mountain Rescue team too: the busiest year ever with about 178 calls for assistance. Some of these calls were fielded and deflected by the Team Leaders, without deploying Team Members. These calls included "lights seen on the mountain"; shouts for "Help" (goats); incident not in our operational area; and using [SARLOC™ Technology] SARLOC™/Phonefind to track the uninjured "casualty", successfully guiding them to safety from the comfort of the Team Leader's home. But we also attended some seriously injured casualties in difficult locations which required all our technical expertise, equipment and training to successfully evacuate. Sadly, we attended six fatal incidents too.

We assisted the Welsh Ambulance service with stretcher carries from rural locations; North Wales Police with searches for missing and vulnerable people; the Coastguard to stretcher a casualty from a secluded rocky beach; and the Air Ambulance, who had been called to a man who had fallen some distance into the river below Swallow Falls. We were called for Unexploded ordnance found on Tal y fan (smoke canister and NOT a job for Mountain Rescue volunteers). One call came from the Ambulance Control Centre, Isle of Man! If you make a 999 call from the Aber Falls valley, the only signal goes to the Isle of Man.

Three team members stopped for Fish 'n Chips in Betws y Coed on their way to Oggi Base for the evening, but were called by a passer-by who reported that a lady had broken her leg, having slipped on wet rocks by the river. The ambulance service could only attend the following day! A team member brought a Land Rover Defender from Base. The casualty was splinted and stretchered to the nearby Defender. She and her teenage daughter were then delivered directly to the hospital door.

One severely injured casualty admitted having drunk a couple of cans of beer on the ascent of Tryfan and had a "spliff" on the descent just before he fell 10 metres down a steep and wet gully. There was debate whether he required analgesia or not!

One report of "Shouts" was not the usual cries for "Help" from the goats, but a couple having a domestic dispute. One casualty reported having fallen over a fence and down onto rocks below Conwy Falls. A full response including Air Ambulance and Police was made. After casualty care for non-visible injuries, she was stretchered up the steep gorge side and up through the woods to a road ambulance. We strongly believe that this was a hoax call.

We rescued a local cragfast sheep dog and another "visitor's dog on Conwy Mountain. We helped search for a missing dachshund in the Aber Falls valley. Its body was found later.

A honeymooning couple, scrambling up the North Ridge of Tryfan, decided to leave their one large rucksack near the Canon Rock as it was hindering them in the strong wind and they thought that they were near the summit. They continued to the North Tower and realised time and daylight were running out. On their descent, they failed to locate their rucksack and also became cragfast. They were brought down to the road.....and to Oggi Base because the keys for their car and his wallet were in the rucksack! A team member delivered them to accommodation for the night. The rucksack was located by others later in the week and returned to the couple.

A group of four men from the South of England found that starting the North Ridge of Tryfan at lunchtime in mid-winter was not a good idea; especially when they only had a couple of lights and were using Google maps to navigate.

One man had decided to solo up the famous Amphitheatre Buttress on the 300m high Craig yr Isfa. This remote crag lies on the East of Carnedd Llewelyn. Shortly after the steep start, he fell 10 metres to the steep rocky scree and a further 10 metres. Very fortunately for him, he was conscious AND he had mobile phone signal. Had he not had either of those, he would not have been found for some time and would have perished from his serious injuries.

Llanberis Mountain Rescue Team have assisted us with a number of Call Outs. Early in the year, they brought their stretcher with a wheel to one of the earlier call outs. We were so impressed that we have bought wheels for three stretchers and enjoy the benefits.

RAF Valley Mountain Rescue Team has assisted either when they were on these mountains or when OVMRCIO was short-handed. Their young, enthusiastic and professional support is much appreciated.

Tryfan (the little mountain which bites back and where all the footpaths lead to the top, but not all lead to the bottom) remains our "hot spot" accounting for 26% of incidents. Cwm Idwal accounts for 10% and Aber Falls is a close contender.

Call Outs started on New Year's Day and ended on 30th. December. Mathematically: 178 calls equals one every other day: a big ask from a hardcore of voluntary team members.

Away from the operational side, Bill Dean, a very long-standing member, retired from the Team in April. Bill has quietly contributed to more than just rescues, having served as Treasurer and been part of the conception of the 333 Supporters Group. Keen with his cine and video cameras over the years, he has captured much footage of the team, Ancient and Modern. At his retirement party, we enjoyed a 30-minute dash through his 60+ years as a team member.

Clive Swombow, Chief Superintendent North Wales Police (retired) became involved with the Ogwen team when he was the liaison officer for North Wales Police with mountain rescue services including the yellow helicopters of the RAF's C Flight, 22 Squadron, based at RAF Valley. He became a close friend of the late Dr. Tony Jones MBE of Ogwen fame. Together, they went to the USA to study wilderness search techniques and introduced these skills to Mountain Rescue in England and Wales. Although not a Full and operational member of OVMRO, he frequently instructed on search management. A quarter of a century ago, he was appointed Chairman of the newly formed 333 Supporters Group of OVMRO, a post from which he has recently retired.

Bryn Poeth, the home of Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue, has seen numerous visits throughout the year. These include conducted "talks and tours" for Army cadets, Scouts and their allied junior organisations, Primary School children with parents, local farmers and businesses, numerous visits by a tour company for American Adventure Tourists, mountaineering professionals and leaders and others. We also met relatives of several of our fatal incidents. It was a privilege to show them around and assist with their grieving process. At the end of the year, the newly appointed Chief Constable of North Wales Police paid a visit. She had cut her teeth with "The Met." so this well-equipped and multi-skilled voluntary emergency service, was new to her. She appeared suitably impressed.

In June, I presented a number of Team members with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee medals. These were awarded to Full Team members of 5 years or more service (at the time of application). Later in the year, I received thank you letters on behalf of King Charles III (visited Bryn Poeth/Oggi Base in June 1977) and Prince William, Prince of Wales (a frequent visitor when he was serving with 22 Sqn. SAR helicopters, RAF Valley), in response to my letters of condolence following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

From early Summer, team members have been filmed for a new BBC programme called Snowdonia SOS, a series of six episodes on the interaction of Emergency Services in Snowdonia. Camera operatives have filmed action at Oggi Base and followed team members on rescues for several months.

178 calls for assistance may seem a high number but there has been a great increase in the number of visitors to our operational area. This is partly due to the opening up of the country-side post-Covid, with visitors realising the magnificent and freely accessible countryside that we have on our doorsteps in the UK. Also, the vast increase in social media, telling the world of all the exciting activities to be had. Inexperienced and often under equipped people get a bit more excitement than planned, so dial 999 as they would in an urban world. Only when we arrive on scene do they realise that we are all volunteers and we are NOT sitting in a base, drinking tea and eating biscuits, awaiting their call.

However, 178 calls represent a very small percentage of visitors to our operational area. Most go home having had a "good day" and we know of a number who "self-rescue", saving team members yet another Call Out.

I thank Team members for their commitment to attending Call Outs and the mass of training. I thank the Team Leaders for the management of our operations.

I thank the officers and members of our 333 Supporters Group for raising funds towards the £140,000 pa expenditure.

I thank all the other donors and those who have kindly left legacies to OVMRCIO.

I thank local businesses who support us with discounts on good and services.

I thank the professional emergency services for their assistance, especially the crews of the Coastguard's helicopters based at Caernarfon.

I thank Maggie and Alwyn who clean Bryn Poeth on a weekly basis...whatever the weather.

And my thanks to those that I have not mentioned in person.

Perhaps most importantly, I thank all the long-suffering families of Team members, whose lives are peppered with pre-planned events such as training and no-notice emergencies both day and night.

Chris Lloyd

Chairman

Team officers and Trustees for 2022-2023

Chairman and Trustee	Chris Lloyd
Treasurer and Trustee	Cally Palmer
Secretary	Anne Margerison
Equipment Officer	Sharon Parry
Training Officer	Robin Woodward
Committee	Charlie Beal
Committee	David Brown
Committee	Kim Burnham
Committee	Brian Robbins
Committee	Chris Thomas
Trustee	Andy Harbach
Trustee	Chris Lloyd
Trustee	Dave Otter
Trustee	Gareth Pritchard
Trustee	Jo Worrall

Operations Group Report - Tim Houldey

2022 was a busy year with with the team responding to 178 incidents totalling 5879 hours. The table below shows the number of individuals we assisted and type of injuries they sustained in 2022 and 2021. There has been an increase in the hours of team members deployed on the hill even though deployments have only increased by 3 in 2022 suggesting the rescues have been more complex and protracted. These figures also highlight the Team Leaders have investigated 100% more callouts in 2022 than 2021; managing to resolve them without the requirement to deploy team members. Either because no Mountain Rescue involvement was required or because the Team Leader was able to resolve the incident remotely.

Due to the nature of callouts this year we have operated with RAF Valley MRT, Llanberis MRT, Welsh Ambulance Service, Coastguard, Bristow's SAR, Welsh Air Ambulance, Fire and Rescue and North Wales Police. Without who's assistance we would not have been able to provide the level of response and for this we are very thankful.

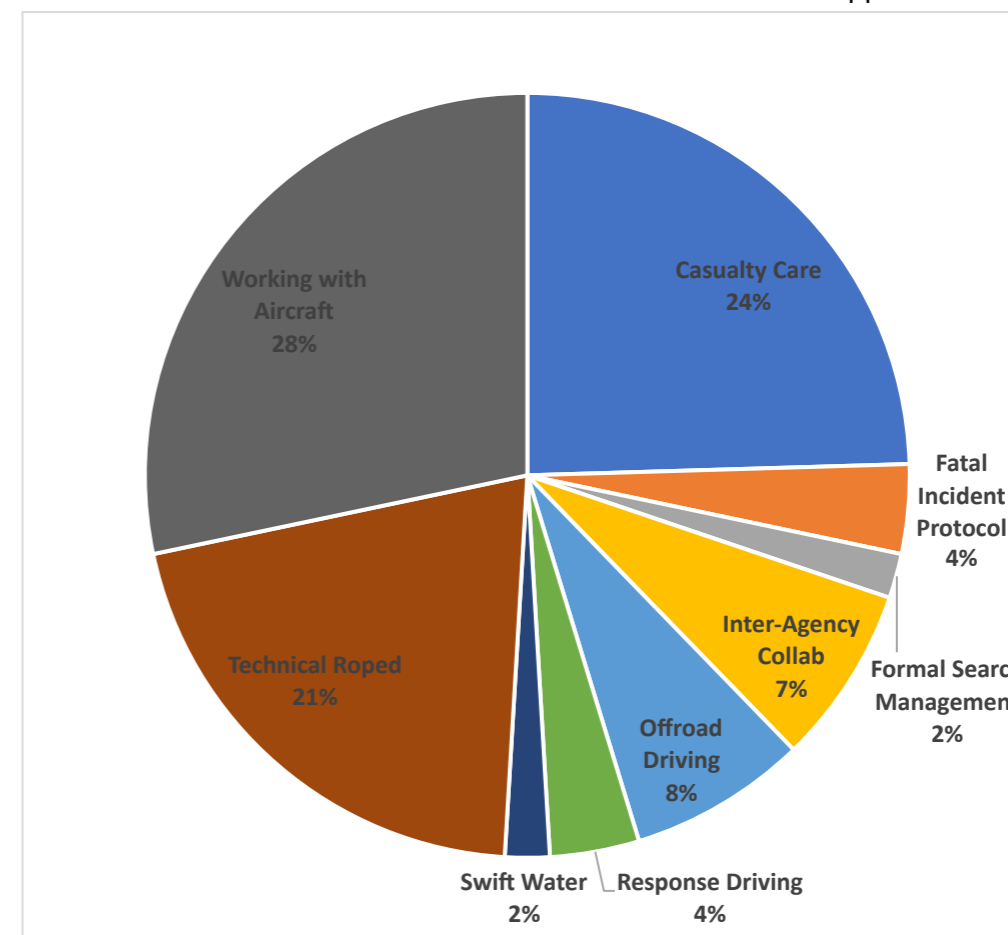
Pressures on the health service have also impacted the team on callouts due to the limited ambulance resource available to transport patients to hospital. This has on occasion been challenging for the Team leader managing the callout. This issue is expected to continue in 2023 for the short to medium term.

In 2022 two Trainee Team leaders Daz Edkins and Tim Houldey successfully completed the Team Leader training scheme and were endorsed at the AGM as Team Leaders. Along with this the Callout co-ordinator scheme, established to support the Team Leader group during Covid was reviewed and it was agreed by the Ops group and committee to no longer be required to support operations. The Ops group would like to thank Karl Lester and Tim Radford for their support and assistance as Callout Co-ordinators.

As we go into 2023, we would ask operational team members to respond to any SARCALL deployment stating whether you are able or unable to attend as this allows us to conduct an estimate and request resource from other teams if required.

The chart below shows the skills employed by OVMRO on callouts in 2022; this highlights the varied nature of the incidents responded too. It also signifies the amount of training hours that team members put in behind the scenes to ensure that the team can provide the relevant skills when required.

The Team Leaders would like to thank all team members for their continued support and understanding.



Incidents and deployments	2022	2021
Total number of incidents	178	149
Team Deployments	118	115
Investigation by Team leader with no deployment/action	67	34
Team member hours deployed on callouts	5879	4373
Nature of injuries encountered		
Uninjured	71	71
Minor	36	48
Serious	29	23
Fatal	4	1

Treasurers Report - Cally Palmer

OVMRO enjoyed another strong year financially with a surplus of income over expenditure amounting to £67,564 which increased the Reserves to £868,050 at 31st December 2022. These Reserves, together with fundraising, will help to fund some significant proposed expenditure which will include the replacement of vehicles, upgrading comms and energy efficient improvements to Bryn Poeth.

The total income from donations and legacies in the year amounted to £170,426 including Gift Aid, with more than half of this sum received from bequests and legacies and donations made to the team in memory of loved ones. The team is particularly grateful to those who at a time of loss, sometimes in difficult or traumatic circumstances, recognise the team's work and wish to donate in order to help the team continue its important work. The team also recognises the income that it receives from its 333 Supporters Group, who not only make regular contributions but also organise and attend events in order to promote the team's mountain rescue activities. There was a significant downturn in such events caused by the necessary restrictions during the Covid pandemic. Now these restrictions have all been lifted, 333 is planning a number of events for 2023 for our loyal supporters. Tim Harrop's brings a great deal of enthusiasm to his role as the new Chair of 333 and Heather Beale brings equal dedication to her role of Fundraising Co-ordinator and management of the membership. Looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

Expenditure for the year totalled £115,483. All expenditure is tightly controlled by the Management Committee with only a small amount being spent on administration and financial costs. We remain a totally voluntary organisation so no team members are remunerated for their time and expertise given to the team. The main items of expenditure continue to be the purchase of equipment, training of team members and team expenses, all expended in the provision of the OVMRO's mountain rescue and associated activities.

At a time when the cost of living is at the forefront of everyone's thoughts we remain especially grateful to everyone who supports the team. I would also like to personally thank our dedicated Management Committee and Trustees who work tirelessly throughout the year to ensure the team continues to operate in a professional and efficient manner in the mountains and surrounding area of the Ogwen Valley.

Technical Rope Rescue Training Report - Rob Bradley

Busy? Has anyone mentioned how busy it was yet? A record number of call outs translated into a significant volume of rope rescues. The phrases "Group strayed on to the east face" and "Team deployed with full TRR kit" crop up again and again in the incident reports. Although only a small proportion of our call outs required full rope evacuation this still resulted in around 20 full technical rope rescue deployments and many, many more "Confidence roped back to the path" entries in the log.

In between all the rescues the trainers have been busy, delivering 15 full days and 18 evenings of TRR content.

In April, a further 9 team members completed the internationally recognised Rope Rescue Technician Qualification, over half the team are now qualified to this advanced level and the new intake of trainees are following the pathway, completing the Rope Rescue Operator course, now a prerequisite to the technician course.

The trainers have also reached out to our neighbouring teams, assisting MONSAR with back-roping stretchers and conducting a multi-pitch lowering exercise with Llanberis Mountain Rescue Team. This was along side the usual requirements of keeping everyone current with their core skills in rope rescue and thinking up challenging scenarios for team exercises.

The CMC/Harken Clutch has become our default rope control device following trials and extensive testing (with thanks to DMM and Helix operations for their facilities and expertise in the testing process) Team member's personal LSK is being replaced with a longer, stronger and lighter Reep cord, giving more flexibility for rigging and being lighter to carry.

In conjunction with the Equipment officer and the PPE group we are looking at the care and lifespan of our technical equipment. How to best protect ourselves with increasing rescue numbers and the harsh environment around Ogwen, trialling alternative ropes for their weight and resistance to abrasion and putting in place procedures to ensure our equipment is ready for the next shout.

Going forward into 2023, it is our intention to put several team members through a Rope rescue instructors course in the spring to lighten the load on the existing instructors, run another Rope Rescue Technician course to enhance the team's capability, plus keep everyone polished and confident in their core skills of technical rope rescue.

With thanks to the TRR working group, the trainers, the equipment officer and team members for their hard work and enthusiasm for all things tech rescue.



Photo: First deployment of the CMC Clutch for the team above Milestone buttress.

Equipment Officer Report - Sharon Parry

For over 2 years as Equipment Manager, I have continually maintained the inventories and systems to carry on the strong foundation of accountability of all kit.

I continue to work very closely with Group Leads to always ensure Governance within the Organisation. I understand and respect that as a Charity we are trusted to spend the funds given to us by the Public in a responsible manner.

During 2022 we have issued over 153 Purchase Orders. These included the purchasing of new kit and replacing time expired or damaged kit. I aim to ensure that the Stores are maintained with operational equipment and personal protective equipment for our members. Last year has been a difficult in relation to lead-in times on orders because of the current Economic Climate. I have continued to build on our good rapport with existing and new suppliers to ensure that orders are met.

The "open stores" system for all equipment is still going well, with Team Members following the guidelines for self-issue/replace kit as and when required. To ensure responsible management of issued clothing and equipment there is now a Clothing & Equipment Contract in place. All members are required to adhere to this detailed contract for best practice, and control of individual equipment records. This work is ongoing as we have over 50 Team Members with an extensive array of Team issued personal kit and clothing.

The Formal PPE inspections, which started in 2019, still being carried out every 6 months (Technical Rope Rescue kit in May & Nov and SRT water rescue kit in Jan and July). We instigated a new regime to ensure continuity, whereby our twelve PPE RoSPA accredited Inspectors carry out all the inspections required. Any kit deemed as being unsafe is removed, securely quarantined and disposed of in the correct way. This really highlights the importance in carrying out PPE inspections twice a year. Following the last TRR PPE Inspections, it had been noticed that more kit was being retired due to the rigorous check's made by us as Inspectors.

Over the last few years, we have seen a significant increase in costs for buying and replacing kit. As the team is becoming larger and is busier, there is more with wear and damage to items such as ropes.

Following the November 2022 PPE Inspectors meeting, it has been agreed that all TRR ropes are inspected more frequently with a Formal Inspections every 3 months. This increases our ability to ensure all ropes can be operated and maintained safely; and that any deterioration is detected and remedied before it results in a risk to the Team. All Equipment Inventories are maintained, and any kit retired is recorded as well as checking all serial numbers to ensure accountability.

Our Asset List is updated daily, with information/costings of any new kit brought into service. This ensures an accurate value of all OVMRO Equipment Assets. The most important asset however is its team members. Through their enthusiasm and dedication the equipment stores are maintained at the highest standard.

Through-out the year, there have been several kit trials again, including, stretcher wheels, clutches, swivel carabiners, Reep Cord, performance clothing, pulleys, prusiks, harnesses and torches.

I would like to focus on a significant and game-changing purchase for the Team. During 2022, a proposal by Dan Romberg and with the support of TRR Group leads and me, there was a trial the Titan Stretcher Wheels. A Training weekend using a wheel loaned by the Llanberis MR Team was very successful. As a result, the Committee approved the purchase of 4 stretcher wheels. This significant purchase has made a fundamental change for long stretcher "carries" and for the Team members.

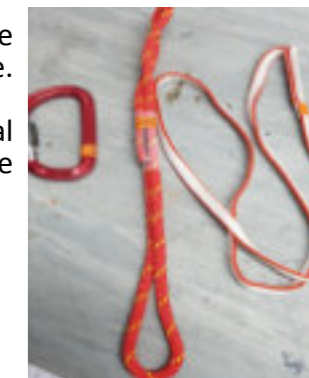


We trailed a performance t-shirt with Montane and Keela, with the latter being the successful supplier. Full Team Members & Trainees are now issued this garment, which carries the OVMRO Team badge. A big thanks to Robin Woodward, Training Officer, for suggesting the OVMRO bilingual logo to be in yellow, which really works well and stands out against the red. This garment is added to the personal Team Kit Issue to Operational members.



The new Fenix PD236R hand torch, has also been issued to team members for the frequent night rescues. These are supported by six Waypoint Torches held at Oggie Base.

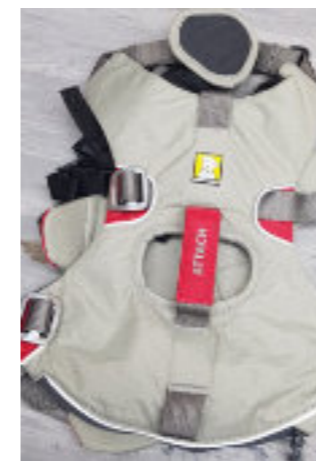
At the end of 2022, we introduced the process of "Tough tagging" all kit with individual OVMRO orange tags. This work is ongoing as over 3000+ pieces of equipment require tagging.



Working with other MR Team's - Equipment

Llanberis Mountain Rescue trial- ½ TRR Kit Bag.

At the end of December last year, Ben Heath, Equipment Officer for the Llanberis MR Team got in touch, enquiring about the loan of one of our ½ TRR Kit Bags to trial for a couple of weeks, this was agreed as it was a good opportunity to promote this bag. Llanberis Team trailed the bag and liked the size, material, and loops for clipping gear. So much so, moving forward they are more than likely get a version designed and made that is similar size and build but more of a 'clamshell' bag with storage and loops on either side. "What an excellent result for both Teams."



There are many farmers and landowners living in the valley and along with more members of the public taking their pets with them on their walks, the Team are increasingly called out to rescue dogs and sheep – As a result, we keep specialist kit available for the safe evacuation of these animals. In last two years we trialled and purchased specific dog harnesses & muzzles.

Winter weather conditions require winter rescue equipment. This includes, micro-spikes and ice axes for our clients and avalanche probes, avalanche transceivers for the rescuers. These held in the equipment stores and are maintained and checked during PPE Inspections.

Satellite stores in Conwy and Bethesda

These two satellite stores have been fully kitted out with TRR Operational kit to aid local Team members to make a rapid response to Call Outs to the Northern limits of our operational area.

Swift Water Rescue Equipment

SRT equipment for the Water Team has also maintained during the year, with the first PPE SRT check this January. I'm still working closely with the SRT leads and suppliers to ensure a quick turn-around on orders. Currently the Water Team are trialling two different water pulleys and expected trial to end in January 2023, with a decision on which pulley to proceed in purchasing.



This year I am looking at ways to keep improving our Equipment Stores and to take the next steps to provide the best possible service for the Team. I am proud to maintain the Team and personal issue kit. It is that sense of pride in my

role as Equipment Manager and as a member of OVMRO that drives me forward to keep seeking further improvements.

Coming up in 2023

Trial of Static Ropes.

Trial of a MR Helmet

Trial of a Ferno Titan Stretcher wrap

Looking into refining our Inventory database to record data.

Visits to Bryn Poeth – Equipment Stores

Now Covid restrictions have lifted there have been numerous visits to Base arranged by our Chairman, Chris Lloyd, and Tim Radford. The positive feedback on the high standard of Equipment and Stores has humbled me immensely. It is great to meet people again and see how interested they are in how our kit stores work for the Team.

One last thing.....

*"This year I would like to also focus on thanking, Cally Palmer, Treasurer, for all her hard work and efficiency with paying of Invoices for equipment for OVMRO, as well as team members allowances and claims, also paying Suppliers in a timely manner, scrutinising any errors and ensuring Governance and accountability of our Charity Funds, her insights and level of quality work remains unprecedented, helping me achieve my goal in ensuring that the Equipment Stores are maintained to the high standard required.
I just wanted to express my deep gratitude for the dedicated work she does on a day-to-day basis."*

Looking forward to working closely with her and all OVMRO again in 2023.

Team 2023 Winter Training - Luca Celano

The weekend of the 21st of January saw fourteen team members head to Aviemore for the annual team winter training weekend. With 'full' winter conditions in North Wales fleeting at best, it's vital the hill going team members have the opportunity to keep their skills sharp for use in the event of a winter rescue occurring in Ogwen.

Across three days of training lead by trainers from Scottish Mountain Rescue, aided by team members holding winter instructors qualifications, the team covered many of the areas of operation not possible to reliably train on home turf.

With a heavy snowfall in the Cairngorms and a 'considerable' avalanche forecast, the snow conditions gave the team realistic conditions in which to practice their skills.

A refresher on personal winter skills, avalanche hazard, snowpack analysis, companion avalanche rescue, rope-work and rescue load snow anchors filled two days, with the final day focusing on a full team avalanche rescue scenario.

The avalanche scenario organised by the SMR trainers was perfect practice for the team. Complete with mock casualties and buried items to find, it reminded the everyone how these skills need to be regularly drilled in realistic conditions in order to be slick and efficient. With the knowledge that a local instructor had recently been rescued in a near-by location during a real avalanche, the scenario felt very genuine.

Aside from the huge amount of technical learning, the weekend was also a great social occasion, and the first that



many of the newer team members had the opportunity to attend. Great food and the next door pub gave the team an opportunity to catch up with each other and bond as a team. When operating in often stressful and serious situations, having this chance to socialise and relax together is a vital part of good morale.

Incident Report

Injuries

Arm	6
Exhaustion	5
Fatal	5
Head	11
Heart	3
Illness	5
Leg	31
Lost, Stolen, Strayed, Stuck	59
No Find	40
Spine	7
Trunk	7

Incidents

Total Number of Incidents	178
Total Team Hours	1601
Total Rescuer Hours	5780

Training Statistics

Number of sessions:	128
Number of attendances:	1140
Time spent: (182 Days, 6 hours)	4374 hours

Activities

Activity	Number
15 Peaks	1
Ambulance assist	4
Animal rescue	3
Climbing	6
Concern for others	18
D of E	1
Dog rescue	1
Flashing lights	6
Gorge scrambling	1
Hill Walking	82
Hill walking and camping	1
Lights reported	1
Medical	1
MFH	1
Motorcycling	1
Mountain Biking	1
Mountaineering	2
NWP assistance	12
Removal of ordnance	1
Report of shouts	1
Rock Scrambling	1
Scrambling	13
Swimming	2
Walking / low level walking	16
Winter hill walking	1

IT Group - Joe Begley

Crew room

A monitor and computer have been added to enable information to be relayed from the ops room to the crew room for Call outs and groups visits. A large 50" monitor has been wall mounted above head height. This is connected to a new dedicated computer in the ops room to display mapping etc. for ops and provide presentations for visiting groups

Ops room

The monitors and computers have been upgraded in line with the ops room upgrade. Larger wall mounted monitors providing more desk space. New faster computers have been installed with much greater capacity to future proof.

Training room

The Wi-Fi has been extended and approved for the training room upstairs. The internet connection upstairs has always been poor. We have extended this from the network downstairs. Now we have a full signal upstairs.

333 Support group

The Team 333 website has been moved over to new hosting due to existing hosting being retired. This means our entire hosting is with one provider making it more efficient to manage.

Digital camera

There have been issues with the upgrade of the new digital camera which is currently being worked on. We expect to have this resolved soon.

Internet connection at base

Our internet connection is currently provided by 4G and satellite. This is limited in its capability and we are currently working with a UK government dept to improve this connection. They are running a free trial which we are currently investigating.

Shop ordering system upgrade

The old online shop has been retired due to the hosting change and a new system is now in place that is integrated with the team website. This is undergoing testing and improvements right now.

Team manager

Team manager is generally working efficiently and always being modified continually in line with OVMRO requirements.

Training Officer Report - Robin Woodward

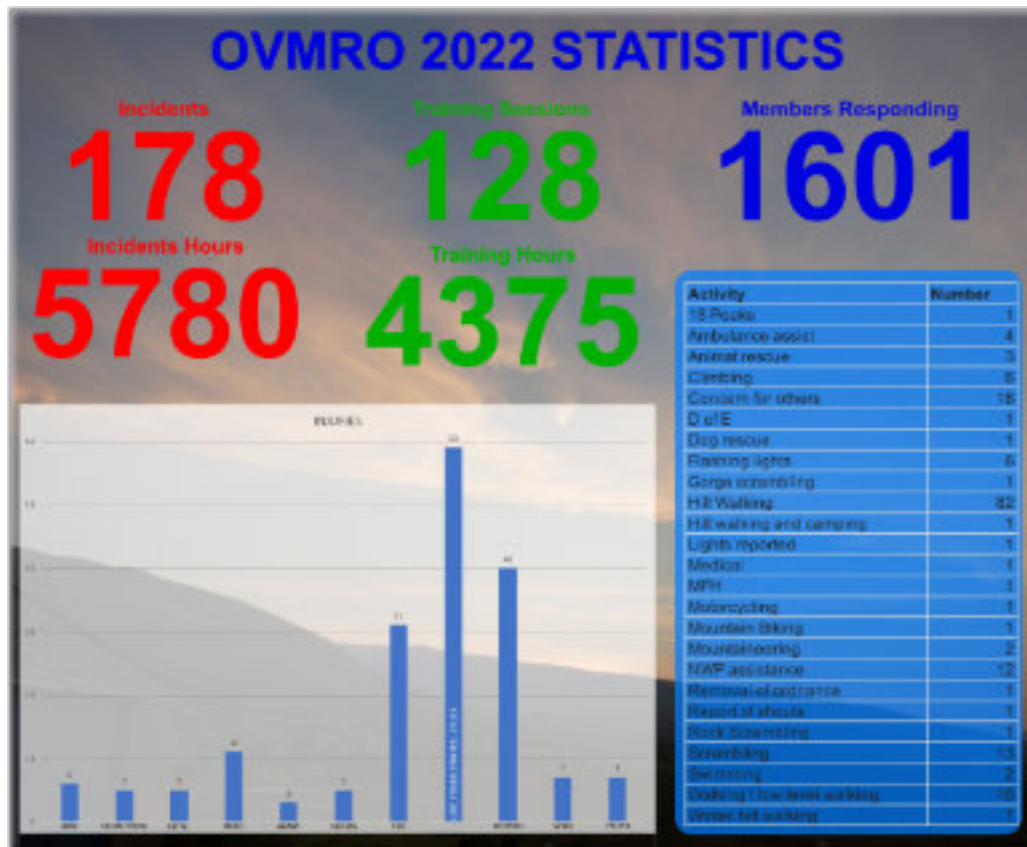
2022 started again with training being primarily an online affair to reduce in-person contact during peak levels of the COVID-19 variants being in circulation, however this time we were prepared for this and had a full schedule of presentations and discussions lined up during January and much of February to keep us on track.

By the end of February we were back to in-person training and saw the welcome return of live cab brief and winch training from Bristow and Rescue 936, including some sessions hosted at Oggie base as well as the Caernarfon Bristow base.



We also saw the introduction of a couple of key new bits of kit for the team, and this required wide spread training to get the wider team up to speed, including the use of the CMC Clutch multi-purpose rope device, and the Cascade stretcher wheel.

With an Initial Hill Day in October and two Final Hill Days in August and December we saw the addition and graduation of several cohorts of strong trainees bringing new skills and experiences to the team.



As part of our technical rope rescue training for the year we ran a rope rescue technician course for more experienced team members and our first rope rescue operator course for our newest trainees to give them a solid grounding in our rope systems from the start.



On the water rescue side of things we ran both a swift-water rescue technician course, and an advanced course to further the skills of our water rescue specialists.



Another cohort of team members went through the rigorous MREW Casualty Care Certificate training and assessment program, as well as attendance at two different WEMSI Emergency Medical Technician courses in Staylitttle and Aviemore, providing further opportunities for CPD.

Alongside these staple training courses we also took advantage of a resumption of MREW and NWMRA level training courses in aspects including search management, party leading and JESIP interoperability for our more senior team members and team leaders.

To allow us to put into practice some of these more specific skills in scenario based training we held several team exercises encompassing multiple technical disciplines, and including some inter-team training with neighbouring teams.

The year rounded off in preparation for the oncoming winter with December seeing us get out our spikey toys to brush off the rust.



Trustees Report and Accounts For the year ended 31st December 2022



Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue
Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered Charity Number 1160504

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Trustees' Annual Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

The Trustees of Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue CIO (OVMRO) present their report and financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2022. This report has been prepared in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), (referred to as "Charities SORP (FRS102)").

1 Charity Information

Charity name	Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Known as:	Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Organisation (OVMRO)
Charity Registration Number	1160504 (England & Wales)
Address	Bryn Poeth, Capel Curig, Betws-y-Coed, Conwy LL24 0EU

Trustees

C J Lloyd	(Ex Officio, Chair) (Appointed 06 April 2022)
C J Palmer	(Ex Officio, Treasurer) (Appointed 03 May 2022)
A D Harbach	
H G Pritchard	
D W Otter	
J M Worrall	(Appointed 06 April 2022)
T J Bird	(Resigned 06 April 2022)
J M Barber	(Resigned 06 April 2022)

Principal Bankers HSBC plc, CAF Bank

Independent Examiner Barrie Buels FCCA FCIE

Crestmere Limited,
Unit F1, Intec,
Parc Menai,
Bangor,
Gwynedd,
LL57 4FG

2 Objectives and Activities

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

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

OVMRO's primary focus remains to rescue people in difficulty in the mountain ranges adjacent to the Ogwen Valley in Eryri (Snowdonia), namely the Carneddau, Glyderau and Moel Siabod. In addition to mountain rescue activity, OVMRO maintains a swift water rescue capability and supports national flood emergencies. The scope of activities is reviewed periodically.

3 Achievements and Performance – Delivering Public Benefit

Following the pandemic and subsequent Lock Downs period there has been an increase in the use of the "great outdoors". This has not only created major issues with car parking in our operational area, but an increase in the number of people calling for assistance from Mountain Rescue (178 incidents, 5785 hours by team members). Whilst a number of these calls were for injuries, many were due to lack of skills, experience and confidence. Many of the callers were unaware that the Mountain Rescue service is provided by volunteers and that the teams are charities funded almost entirely by donations from the general public.

Team members have assisted, and been assisted by, neighbouring mountain rescue teams (MRT) and have worked closely with the helicopter services of the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, the RAF Mountain Rescue Service, North Wales Police, the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust and North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Team members continue to train to a high standard in a range of skills, including technical rope rescue, casualty care, swift water rescue, search management, fatal incident investigation, off-road driving techniques, winter search and rescue techniques, and working with helicopters. Team members' training hours totalled 1140 hours over 127 training sessions.

At the end of 2022, OVMRO had 49 full/operational members and 4 trainee members with 7 trainees gaining full membership during the year. There are seven Specialists who assist with certain skills/expertise. The Team continues to attract the interests of potential new members. Members of the CIO are individuals who undertake to act in good faith to further the purposes of the CIO.

OVMRO was the first MRT to set up a supporters group: The 333 Support Group. This was established in early 1997. It continues to provide administrative and operational support to the Team as well as valuable fundraising activities through events, attending village fetes and selling merchandise.

OVMRO is affiliated to the North Wales Mountain Rescue Association (NWMRA) and Mountain Rescue England & Wales (MREW). Through its representation in these groups, OVMRO makes an active and valuable contribution to the mountain rescue community and Local Resilience Forum. Members were pleased to receive the newly appointed Chief Constable of North Wales Police, Amanda Blakeman, at Bryn Poeth shortly after her appointment. She recognised and noted the invaluable capabilities of our Mountain Rescue Team.

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

4 Financial Review

The CIO's annual reports are published each year on the Charity Commission Website, with effect from the year ended 31 December 2015.

4.1 Principal Funding Sources and Expenses

OVMRO continues to benefit from a strong flow of charitable donations and remains in a sound financial position to deliver its charitable objectives.

OVMRO's income in the year was £183,047 of which £170,426 was received from voluntary donations and legacies. Together with a slightly reduced level of expenditure in the year, this resulted in an overall increase in reserves of £67,564.

OVMRO received no restricted income in the year and all of its reserves carried forward are deemed unrestricted. All financial commitments are fully funded.

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

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

Equipment and training costs continue to be the main expenditure areas. Team members are supported by the periodic issue of personal protection equipment and other essential kit items and by the reimbursement of travelling expenses when responding to operational incidents and participating in training events.

The Team's policy is that membership should be cost-neutral. Beyond this, there are expenses for the continuing programme of maintenance and improvement work at the Team's base, Bryn Poeth in the Ogwen Valley.

4.2 Reserves Policy

Although it is intended that future activities of the charity are to be funded by future income, OVMRO's reserves provide a buffer should there be any significant downturn in donations. The Trustees consider it prudent to maintain OVMRO's designated operational reserve, calculated as being 3 years estimated annual costs based on an average of the last 3 years annual costs. At 31 December 2022, the operational reserve was set at £363,000 out of total reserves of £868,050.

In addition to the operational reserve, the Trustees have authorised an operational contingency which, at the discretion of the Chair and Treasurer, may be used for the payment of operational expenses arising in exceptional circumstances. The sum is to be set annually at 10% of the operational reserve and amounted to approximately £37,000 at 31 December 2022.

The Trustees recognise that significant capital expenditure may be required in the foreseeable future to fund replacement vehicles, energy efficient improvements to the team's operational base and enhanced digital communications. The team is currently procuring quotes and estimates for this expenditure which is anticipated to be in the region of £250,000.

4.3 Investment Policy

Funds not currently required for short-term expenditure are held in interest bearing bank accounts, with account balances aimed to be within the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) limits.

4.4 Independent Examiner

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

5 Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed according to its constitution dated 12 March 2016, and last amended 15 April 2021, and a Rule Book covering day-to-day management of the team and supported by policies on key areas, such as equal opportunities and data protection.

5.1 Trustees Appointment and Induction

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

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

Trustees on appointment are usually familiar with the activities of OVMRO but receive a copy of the

Constitution, Rule Book and accounts. Trustees can attend Management Committee meetings.

5.2 Operational Management

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

5.3 Risk Management

The Trustees have reviewed the major risks to which OVMRO is exposed. They are satisfied that OVMRO's systems mitigate the majority of those risks, and steps are being taken to further mitigate some of the more serious risks.

The Trustees are satisfied that the OVMRO's processes and controls continue to meet the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation.

5.4 Trustees' Responsibilities

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

- a. select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- b. observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102)
- c. make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- d. state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- e. prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to do so

The Trustees are responsible for keeping sufficient accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 as well as the charity's governing document. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees believe they have met these responsibilities in 2022.

The Trustees are pleased with the performance of OVMRO during 2022 and once again wish to thank everyone who has supported OVMRO during the year, in particular the team members and their families and members of the 333 Support Group.

Approved by the Trustees on 20 February 2023 and signed on their behalf by

C J Lloyd (Chair)

Trustee

6 Independent Examiners' Report To The Trustees Of Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue CIO

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue CIO (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited and are eligible for Independent Examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by the 2011 Act; or
2. The financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. The financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. The financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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

**Barrie Buels FCCA FCIE
Crestmere Limited**

Unit F1, Intec
Parc Menai
Bangor,
Gwynedd

**OGWEN VALLEY MOUNTAIN RESCUE CIO
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022**

	Notes	2022 (Unrestricted Funds Only)		2021 (Unrestricted Funds Only)	
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2a	170,426		223,054	
Charitable activities		-		-	
Other trading activities	2b	8,674		9,059	
Investments	2c	3,945		2,985	
Other	2d	2		270	
Total income		183,047		235,368	
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	3a	7,978		6,279	
Charitable activities	3b	107,505		126,313	
Other		-		-	
Total expenditure		115,483		132,592	
		67,564		102,776	
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-		-	
Net income/(expenditure)		67,564		102,776	
Other recognised gains/(losses)		-		-	
Net movement in funds		£ 67,564		£ 102,776	
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		800,486		697,710	
Total funds carried forward		£ 868,050		£ 800,486	

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	7		115,438		123,268
Currents assets:					
Stock		6,864		3,530	
Debtors	8	7,518		10,587	
Cash at bank and in hand		742,784		669,861	
			757,166		683,978
			872,604		807,246
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9		(4,554)		(6,760)
Total assets less current liabilities			868,050		800,486
Total net assets			£ 868,050		£ 800,486
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted funds	10		868,050		800,486
Total charity funds			£ 868,050		£ 800,486

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20th February 2023 and were signed on their behalf by:

C J Lloyd (Chair)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2022

1. Accounting Policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019); hereinafter referred to as "Charities SORP (FRS102)".

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under the Charities SORP (FRS102).

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

There are no material uncertainties regarding the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income recognition

Income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities at the point when the charity has entitlement to the funds, an identifiable probability of receipt and the amount can be measured reliably.

When applicable, donated goods and services are included as income in the Statement of Financial Activities where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable and measurable. Such donated goods and services are shown at their fair value on initial recognition.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised on the accruals basis at the point when the charity has a legal or constructive obligation to the expenditure.

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services in accordance with the objects of the charity and include, where appropriate, attributable VAT which cannot be recovered. Expenditure incurred and attributable to more than one activity of the charity is apportioned on a fair and reasonable basis.

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

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated in the Statement of Financial Position at cost less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses. The cost of tangible fixed assets includes directly attributable costs incurred in their acquisition and installation.

acquisition and installation.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Leasehold property	over the lease term
Motor vehicles	over 5 years
Plant and equipment	between 4 and 10 years

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Donated goods for resale are not recognised on receipt. Instead, the value to the charity of the donated goods sold is recognised as income when sold.

Debtors

Debtors include amounts owed to the charity for the provision of good and services or amounts the charity has paid in advance for the goods and services it will receive and are measured at their recoverable amounts.

Cash and bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand is held to meet the short-term cash commitments of the charity as they fall due. Cash at bank is held with UK banks registered under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Creditors

Creditors represent the charity's obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of the charity's activities and are shown at their settlement amounts.

Creditors are classified as current liabilities unless the company has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund accounting

During the year the charity operated a single unrestricted income fund. Unrestricted funds are used in accordance with the charity's objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

2. Income

a. Income from donations and legacies

Income from donations and legacies is analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Unrestricted funds only		
Voluntary donations	48,155	32,188
Bequests, legacies and 'In Memory Of' donations	95,870	167,590
333 Supporters Group	15,154	14,351
Cash collection boxes	3,341	1,903
Sponsorship	1,474	1,015
Gift Aid received	6,432	6,007
	£ 170,426	£ 223,054

b. Income from other trading activities

Income from other trading activities is analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Unrestricted funds only		
Sale of merchandise	6,480	8,247
Fundraising events	1,657	429
Other income	537	383
	£ 8,674	£ 9,059

c. Income from investments

Income from investments is analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Unrestricted funds only		
Bank interest received	3,954	2,985
	£ 3,954	£ 2,985

d. Other income

Other income is analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Unrestricted funds only		
Other interest received	2	20
Other income	-	250
	£ 2	£ 270

3. Expenditure

a. Raising Funds

Expenditure on raising funds is analysed as follows

	2022	2021
	£	£
Unrestricted funds only		
Merchandise costs	5,288	4,511
333 Supporters Group costs	1,366	376
Fundraising event costs: Other Events	-	37
Online donation fees	1,324	1,355
	<u>£ 7,978</u>	<u>£ 6,279</u>

b. Charitable activities

Expenditure on charitable activities is analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Unrestricted funds only		
Equipment inc. swift water rescue	18,395	26,342
First aid and casualty care	3,785	6,036
Transport costs	5,330	7,305
Training expenses	8,647	8,894
Communications and IT	4,417	2,749
Base (Bryn Poeth) expenses	8,689	6,531
Team expenses	32,135	32,165
Administration expenses	292	332
Bank charges	122	20
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	24,256	23,887
Grants to charitable organisations	-	11,000
Governance costs (Note 3c.)	1,437	1,052
	<u>£ 107,505</u>	<u>£ 126,313</u>

c. Governance costs

Expenditure on governance costs is analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Unrestricted funds only		
Independent examiner's fees	300	500
Trustees' expenses	779	517
Other professional fees	35	35
AGM expenses	323	-
	<u>£ 1,437</u>	<u>£ 1,052</u>

4. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Unrestricted funds only		
Depreciation	24,256	23,887
Independent examiner's fees	300	500
Trustees' expenses	779	517

5. Employment Costs

During the year the charity had no employees (2021: Nil).

6. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

None of the trustees received any remuneration during the year (2021: £Nil).

During the year 6 trustees (2021: 3) were reimbursed £345 (2021: £18) for travel expenses in connection with the governance of the charity

Trustee liability insurance cover is provided via a third-party consortium comprising Mountain Rescue England and Wales (MREW), British Cave Rescue Council (BCRC) and the Search and Rescue Dog Association (SARDA) and amounted to £434 in the year (2021: £499).

7. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold Property	Motor Vehicles	Plant & Equipment	Total
Cost:	£	£	£	£
At 1 st January 2022	80,280	65,371	151,219	296,870
Additions	-	-	16,426	16,426
At 31 st December 2022	<u>80,280</u>	<u>65,371</u>	<u>167,645</u>	<u>313,296</u>
Depreciation:				
At 1 st January 2022	22,806	57,221	93,575	173,602
Charge for the year	3,193	4,075	16,988	24,256
At 31 st December 2022	<u>25,999</u>	<u>61,296</u>	<u>110,563</u>	<u>197,858</u>
Net book value:				
At 31 st December 2022	<u>£ 54,281</u>	<u>£ 4,075</u>	<u>£ 57,082</u>	<u>£ 115,438</u>
At 31 st December 2021	<u>£ 57,474</u>	<u>£ 8,150</u>	<u>£ 57,644</u>	<u>£ 123,268</u>

8. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gift aid recoverable	2,094	1,7512
VAT recoverable	3,136	3,553
Prepayments	2,288	5,283
	<u>£ 7,518</u>	<u>£ 10,587</u>

9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Sundry creditors	3,709	6,250
Accruals	845	510
	<u>£ 4,554</u>	<u>£ 6,760</u>

10. Analysis of charitable funds

The charity operates one singular unrestricted fund which includes certain designated funds.

	At 1 st January 2022	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	At 31 st December 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds only					
General unrestricted fund	400,486	183,047	(115,483)	37,000	505,050
Designated funds:					
Operational reserve fund	400,000	-	-	(37,000)	363,000
	<u>£ 800,486</u>	<u>£ 183,047</u>	<u>£ (115,483)</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 868,050</u>

10. Analysis of charitable funds (continued)

	At 1 st	Incoming	Outgoing		At 31 st
	January	Resources	Transfers	Transfers	December
2020 Financial Year	2021				2021
Unrestricted funds only	£	£	£	£	£
General unrestricted fund	267,710	235,368	(122,592)	20,000	400,486
Designated funds:					
Operational reserve fund	420,000	-	-	(20,000)	400,000
Rescue Benevolent Fund	10,000	-	(10,000)	-	-
	<u>£ 697,710</u>	<u>£ 235,368</u>	<u>£(132,592)</u>	<u>£ -</u>	<u>£ 800,486</u>

The operational reserve designated fund is calculated as 3 times annual costs, based on an average of the last 3 years annual costs.