



Teamworks

The newsletter of the Holme Valley Mountain Rescue Team

Air Ambulance exercise and presentation

Sunday 17th April - we were lucky enough to have the opportunity to have time with the Yorkshire Air Ambulance - all be it a brief session.

This gave us the chance to meet the flight crew and learn how they work and their limitation to attend incidents. Also we now are able to

contact them directly to call in the helicopter should we need their assistance.

Also, during this exercise we were able to include the formal hand-over of the new Bell Tangent stretcher from the Colne Valley Lions, who donated £850 towards the cost.

Thanks go to Dan who put in a great deal of effort for arranging the day and Helen who took many photos, some of which were uploaded onto the website.

This photo was passed onto the Lions and made it into the Huddersfield Examiner



Presentation of the new stretcher by the Colne Valley Lions

Duke of Edinburgh's Award training

The Holme Valley Team has been piloting a new course for the Bronze Service section of Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Many will be aware of our links with youth organisations and that it offers a positive approach to encouraging young people to experience the outdoors and encourage future membership.

As a result of the Team's

positive approach I have been asked by Kirklees D of E to write a course to introduce young people to Mountain Rescue. With a practical, doing edge to this, each session is about an hour/hour and a half long and in the form of a Power Point presentation that includes all materials to support the sessions.

So far the feedback from the

young people involved has been very encouraging. If you would like a copy of this for a group you are working with get in touch with me for a copy.

This first group concludes with a practical session set in Greenhead Park on June 15th.

Stuart M.



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Standedge Tunnel disaster plan

Friday 20th May saw the launch of the Standedge Tunnel Disaster plan.

Following all the work from interested agencies including

the work done by the Holme Valley Team this document has been completed and issued to all involved.

It charts all the areas of

incident responsibilities and what will happen should there be an incident in the tunnel.

Team Controllers should aim to be familiar with this document.

Ted and May's garden party

On Saturday 9th July Ted and May have sent an open invite for a garden party at their farm on Mount Road, Marsden.

This is usually the weekend we

have had our barbecue, but due to works going on at their house we have moved this event to November.

However, there will be

barbecues set up to use, just bring your own food and drinks and have a good time.

There will be a raffle and funds raised will go to our Team.

A trip to Alaska

Nice to see Gill and Garreth safely back from their Alaskan trip. I'm sure many people will have taken the opportunity to catch up on their news.

I have asked Garreth to write something for a future edition of Teamworks for those who have not heard about it.

Due to work and time commitments Tony N. has been unable to prepare his next part of the Elbrus story, this will return next issue.

Website developments

I have just about got the Holme Valley Team website to where I want it now. To say I started back in late January with no knowledge of website building and photos that were a bit old to get it together has been quite an odd journey. It's great to get the positive comments from inside and outside of the Team.

I wanted the website to do 2 things, firstly to inform people who don't know about MR to know a little more. Having applied for grants over the years (for the vehicles etc.) I was always asked about what we did, hence the community page. The second reason was to be a resource to keep all our Team informed of events and news. This is mainly done through the member's area of the site. Here you'll find current call out lists and Council meeting minutes etc. to view and download.

Thanks to the world out there (including you) we are averaging about 200 'hits' or visits to the website per month.

I have since found a third use.

Several of us are involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (D of E) and there are many others involved in working with Cub and Scout groups. These often involve encouraging young people to experience the outdoors through walks and expeditions. This is why I have added walking routes to give participants and leaders ideas. Future walks, I hope, will be written by young people themselves (with a little help). I would really appreciate it if you have a walk you'd like to add - don't panic I will do the computer stuff, just submit a description!

Something else I have tried to develop is a Forum for the website. Often I've been asked for advice about your computer problems and if I've not known the answer I've often found it through a forum - *so what is a forum?* For those who don't know it's a simply an online database dressed up to look nice. *But what does it do?* Well, I have set up several topic groups for ours linked to 'subject areas'

and within these areas it's a way of you making comments/suggestions or simply to gauge an opinion by posting a message and inviting replies.

Our forum has been a little slow to take off - I guess because people see each other and discuss things face to face on a regularly. However, forums work best by having lots of people participating. So here's the encouragement to use it - or at least have a look and be informed!

To put messages on there you need to go to the forum site (<http://www.phpbbforfree.com/forums/holmevalleymrt.html>) and register. THIS IS SIMPLE! - just click the register link at the top and enter (at least) a user name, password and e-mail address, wait for the confirmation e-mail (sent in seconds) and you are off.

Use the forum to make your suggestions to improve what we do, make announcements or sell that kit you want to get rid of. If not at least visit it to keep up with the news.



Image of the website forum -

<http://www.phpbbforfree.com/forums/holmevalleymrt.html>

What has the Panel ever done for us...?

To take a phrase from a well known group of comedians and film, but what have they done?

Watching the reaction of people when asked to attend a Panel meeting in absence of those that usually go you often see the pulling of a face together with the comments of 'no way am I going to that boring meeting!' Maybe I don't blame them. But things are, hopefully, set to change soon.

The Mid Pennine Search and Rescue Organisation Panel is made up of our Team together with Bolton, Bowland Pennine, Calder Valley, Cave Rescue, Rossendale and Pendle and the RAF Rescue Team and is the conduit for information to pass up and down from our Teams to the National Mountain Rescue organisation meeting 4 times a year. However, now there are plans to do more than just this.

Though most of these plans, to those who have been around for a while, will see this as a resurrection of what the Panel

used to do there are new ideas there too.

At one time, once a year Teams in the Panel would take it in turns to plan and organise a joint exercise to involve all the Teams. This encouraged and promoted the idea of sharing practices and familiarise each other with Team leaders and members and areas etc..

These were held at the end of January and fell off the training calendar due to prioritising other commitments. Also the Panel did run 'Foundation' and 'Party Leader' courses that introduced and developed Mountain Rescue skills. These were held in high regard by many Teams outside our area, so much they sent people to fill the courses. Personally, I enjoyed these as it was a great way to discuss ideas and get to know other Teams.

At the last meeting (where I am secretary) it was agreed to attempt to 're launch' much of what the Panel was good at, to promote a better image of what it does and encourage

new faces to attend to share ideas.

It's easy to think that the Holme Valley Team works in isolation, simply because much of what we do (exercises, practices, fund raising etc.) lends itself to this way of thinking. But without the Panel we would not have the methods of rope work we use, agreed radio procedure and practice, even the promotion and potential central funding for all our efforts.

This process of 're-launch' and better co-ordination has started with a new Panel website, - currently under construction (<http://www.mpsro.org.uk>). Do keep an eye on it as it grows.

So, hopefully, whatever your current views, when asked to attend or if you want to see what goes on and to have your say, give it a go. I can arrange meeting minutes for you or to pass on dates. Meet others with similar ideas of MR.

Stuart Milner



Map showing MRC's Panels in England and Wales.

40th Anniversary glass

As part of the 40th Anniversary year the Team has arranged for a commemorative glass to be produced.

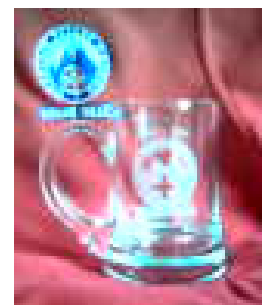
This is a 'pint sized' glass, etched with the Holme Valley

Team logo and the words '1965-2005, 40th Anniversary' above and below.

An initial order of 30 has been placed and these will be sold to those who have expressed an

interest already first.

However don't worry we are to place a second order for those who still want one. The cost will be approx. £16 each - all orders to be placed with John Roberts.



The 40th Anniversary Glass

Magmount orders

Tom Dawes has sourced a car mag mount aerial for our radios.

If you are interested in getting one they come with a 5 metre

lead and connector for our hi-band radios.

If you are interested in seeing one or want to purchase one contact Tom as soon as possible

so he can get an order together. Costs are expected to be just under £20 each.

E-mail tomdawes2000@yahoo.com or contact him directly.



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The Holme Valley Mountain Rescue Team is a registered charity (No. 1015532) and a limited company by guarantee (No. 2764292).

We're on the Web!

www.holmevalleymrt.org.uk

The Holme Valley Mountain Rescue Team is a voluntary organisation based in Meltham, on the outskirts of Huddersfield.

The Holme Valley Team covers the southern half of West Yorkshire, with terrain ranging from rugged open moorland to built up urban areas. The Team provides 24 hours a day search and rescue capabilities for such diverse situations - from locating lost walkers to assisting the West Yorkshire Police with missing persons.

The Holme Valley Team proactively promotes safety and best practice on the hill through links in the community. We are also regularly called upon to provide first aid or rescue cover on events such as sponsored walks and mountain bike races.

The Team comprises approximately 60 members with 35 being active hill members. The remainder are a mix of trainee aspirant members and support staff. All Team members are unpaid volunteers who receive no expenses, and commit many hours each year to attending training and call outs.

As with all civilian Mountain Rescue Teams in this country its services are provided free of charge to all. Because of this the Holme Valley Mountain Rescue Team is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.

Running the Team currently costs approx. £6000 a year and this money is raised by the hard work of Team Members, their families, generous patrons and members of the public. The Team receives no Government or Local Authority funding and relies solely on subscriptions, discretionary grants and donations from the public.

Team News

SMS text messages

Many of you will be aware that the Team owns some software that enables us to send out SMS text messages to groups of mobile phones.

This has been donated to us by GCRSoft - the writers and distributors of this program.

We use this to inform Team members of last minute changes to exercises and important reminders.

However, due to a reformat and reinstall on my computer I have lost several Mobile Phone numbers from the system.

Next Issue ...

Look out for news about the Team's personal accident insurance. Pete Phillips will be writing a piece to inform you of its cover and answer some of your questions.

In particular I need phone numbers of those not on the call out list to enable me to add you to the system to receive messages and updates.

Please either pass these onto me at an exercise or e-mail to me on **raingods_dancing@yahoo.co.uk**

Summer Team weekend 2005

In response to the request of not going too far and yet not being too close to home, the summer Team weekend has been booked for a campsite in Austwick, in the Yorkshire Dales.

To be held over the weekend of 5th-7th August at the Dalesbridge campsite. The group site has been provisionally

booked and, depending on numbers, the cost should be just under £4/night/person.

If you are interested in going you need to get your names to Gill Howarth as soon as possible to cover the booking deposit cost.

Dalesbridge campsite has a website which is <http://www.dalesbridge.co.uk>

Laptop maps

We have got back the Team's donated lap top from the Police with a copy of their mapping software. This gives us the capability to print out detailed maps to assist with searching.

As soon as I've had the chance to test this in the vehicle I will be arranging training to familiarise our search planners in its use.

