

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CAVE RESCUE GROUP



Newsletter

Issue 16, June 2020



GCRG Depot, Littledean Hill, Cinderford, Glos, GL14 2TT

Phone – 01594 827999

SARCALL Response Number – 07537415551

Please ensure all SARCALL messages are responded to

Editors note:

Last issue was April 2019, No. 15 ... This newsletter (like any other newsletter) can only be as good as the information/articles contained within and consequently, if anyone has any photos or articles or anything else they'd like to see included then please forward/contact the Editor.

As ever, thanks to all those who wrote articles and/or provided photos for use. Without their efforts there would be no newsletter.

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Dates for the diary	2
The Committee	2
SARCALL information (useful numbers & Wardens details)	3
Chairman's Introduction	4
Cave rescue callouts since April 2019	5
Land search callouts (in support to SARA) since April 2019	5
Reports of land search callouts	6
Reports of training events since April 2019	7
Report of Mines Rescue Exercise	10
GCRG represented at Buckingham Palace	16
Fall Protection Equipment Inspectors Course	19
Personal caving equipment for Cave Rescue	20
Donations made to GCRG	21
Fundraising	21
GCRG website	22

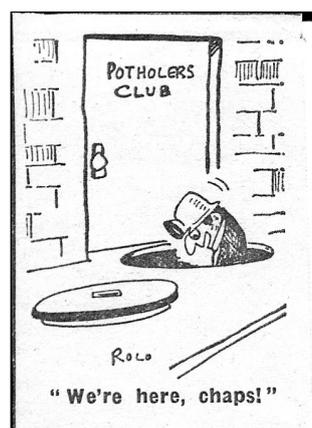
CONTENTS

GCRG on Facebook	25
GCRG shop	25

2020 DATES FOR THE DIARY

8 October 2020 ... Annual General Meeting @ the GCRG Depot

26 November 2020 ... Mines Rescue Exercise @ Wallsend Colliery

**GCRG COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

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Ordinary Member <i>[Support to the Chairman]</i> <i>Rachel Brown</i> brownrm@btinternet.com 01453 511100 (H) 07855 798403 (M)	Ordinary Member <i>[Driver Records and Assistant Training Co-Ordinator]</i> <i>Kev Brockway</i> ozonekev@btinternet.com 01453 511100 (H) 07970 033345 (M)	

SARCALL INFORMATION

<div style="text-align: center;">  <h3 style="margin: 0;">Gloucestershire Cave Rescue Group</h3> </div> <p>SARCALL Information for Team Members</p> <p>When you receive a SARCALL SMS alert sent by a GCRG Warden reply to it to indicate your availability.</p> <p>If you are unable to reply by SMS text message try using the GCRG specific SARCALL response web page.</p> <p>Alternatively call the originating warden or the Depot where a message may be left on the answer phone.</p>	<h4 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Useful phone numbers</h4> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">GCRG Depot</td> <td colspan="2">01594 827999</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GCRG Wardens</td> <td>Mobile</td> <td>Home</td> </tr> <tr> <td>David Appleing</td> <td>07804 300598</td> <td>01242 581385</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Berry</td> <td>07979 791083</td> <td>01594 822823</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kevin Brockway</td> <td>07970 033345</td> <td>01453 511100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Andrew Clark</td> <td>07707 992510 07411 207149</td> <td>01600 716970</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maurice Febry</td> <td></td> <td>01242 242160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ladi Broadman</td> <td>01594 832023</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	GCRG Depot	01594 827999		GCRG Wardens	Mobile	Home	David Appleing	07804 300598	01242 581385	John Berry	07979 791083	01594 822823	Kevin Brockway	07970 033345	01453 511100	Andrew Clark	07707 992510 07411 207149	01600 716970	Maurice Febry		01242 242160	Ladi Broadman	01594 832023	
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<p>The SMS text message MUST take one of the 3 formats below:</p> <p>SAR ▲ Axxx ▲ message if you are available SAR ▲ Lxxx ▲ message if you have limited availability SAR ▲ N ▲ message if you are unavailable</p> <p>Where</p> <p>▲ = a space xxx = time in minutes until you will arrive at RV point message = relevant additional information, free text.</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">David Hardwick</td> <td>07780 67634101454 299035</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Martin Holloway</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Greg Jones</td> <td>07974 00351901989 218763</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paul Taylor</td> <td>07803 53994501452 505673</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peter Turier</td> <td>07462 13189901452 539199</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Colin Vickery</td> <td>07548 24012401684-293202</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">(Version 7. Jun 2020)</p> <p>Changes to your details? Email info@gcrg.org.uk</p>	David Hardwick	07780 67634101454 299035		Martin Holloway			Greg Jones	07974 00351901989 218763		Paul Taylor	07803 53994501452 505673		Peter Turier	07462 13189901452 539199		Colin Vickery	07548 24012401684-293202							
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SARCALL ALERTS

SARCALL is the primary tool used by GCRG when initiating a call out. Not only is it the way we notify members of the details of the call out, it is also how you, the members, let the Wardens know if you are available.

It is **EXPECTED THAT ALL MEMBERS WILL RESPOND TO ALL SARCALL ALERTS** - the team need to know both who is and is not available.

SARCALL alert messages are sent by SMS to mobile phones, automatic voice message to land lines and email.

Mobiles

The callout SMS text alert will give brief details of the incident and contact details for the originating Warden.

When replying to these texts YOU MUST use the phone on which the callout text was received. This phone number is recorded on the SARCALL system as belonging to a particular individual, sending texts from other phones will result in them being ignored.

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

I hope you are all keeping well and safe in this very strange and unprecedented times. Not being able to go out and go caving is a strain but if you are anything like myself then I am sure you will have been able to find many jobs at home to keep you occupied.

For my part, I have been working on the construction of a new workshop at the bottom of my garden. A project that I started quite a few years ago and then due to the slight inconvenience of having a heart attack and the small filming project I have been involved with in Otter Hole, it slipped onto the back burner, and to be honest never got put back onto the front burner. So it has been an ideal project to work on and will make a massive difference around my house. Not least of which it will result in a large model ocean-going tug boat being shifted out of my bedroom. Also, anyone who has been to my house will know that my office is absolutely crammed with filming equipment and although this will not be moving to the workshop, items linked to the model building such as the tools etc are and they will leave some space for all of the lighting etc to move out.

The stopping of caving has however not meant that GCRG can sit back on its laurels. To be honest with you, nothing is further from the truth and although the cave rescue side has been very quiet, and long may this continue, it has still been necessary to ensure that the equipment and our vehicles have been maintained in good working and running order.

Members of our small Land Search Team have also been active a number of times throughout the lockdown period in support of SARA. I am extremely pleased that we have been able undertake this with some preplanning work. Three temporary Team Leaders have been set from within the Land Search members so that wherever possible, GCRG members attending a land search can operate as a group within their own right. Each of the team leaders has been issued with a GCRG SAR radio so that it is not necessary to make use of SARA equipment. Risk assessments have been undertaken by SARA along with strict protocols and working procedures being established. All of the searches have gone very well and the missing persons all been found safely.

Although as I said that there has not been any activity on the cave rescue front, the lifting of some of the restrictions on travel for exercise will without a doubt increase the potential, and although I would hope that this would not come from the caving community, the rise in the movement of the general public could quite easily result in the services of the GCRG being called upon.

To meet this demand, further preparations have been made on establishing stocks of PPE equipment for rescue team members to wear as we are all aware that full hands-on contact is going to be necessary to move an injured casualty and it is essential that we have the right protection in place. Along with an establishment of decontamination kits in both the landrover and the trailer for personnel and equipment. There will also be bags for equipment to be placed in after use as well as different coloured bags for use with PPE that needs to be disposed of.

Of course we would respond to a Call Out but it is inevitable that our response is going to be slower than normal. Also with the likelihood of reduced personnel numbers available due to a variety of reasons, along with the added PPE requirements, all are without a doubt going to extend the time that any evacuation may take. So, if you get a SARCALL message for an incident or if you are one of the land search team members please ensure that you respond accordingly with your availability. No-one is going to be judged for not being able to attend but in these times it is essential that the Wardens who are planning the response have as much information as possible.

When attending an incident, you will find things running a bit differently to normal, there may be additional questions asked or you may be asked to wait in your vehicle or in a specific location until your services are required. Please stick to those requirements.

Looking towards the future and our eventual return to caving. Please remember that you will not have been caving for quite a while and without a doubt even if you have been keeping yourself active with walks or cycling etc we will have all lost a lot of our "cave fitness". So could I please ask that your first venture underground is not a solo trip to the far end of Otter Hole or Westbury Brook iron mine. Even these, with a minimum of four would be best left till you have undertaken a few less strenuous trips. Please build up to it slowly and remember if you have an accident those coming to rescue you will all be in the same boat.

Keep well and keep safe. Those caves and mines are not going to disappear and will all be waiting for us when we are all fit and ready to explore them again.

Paul Taylor
GCRG Chairman

CAVE RESCUE CALLOUTS (since April 2019)

7 September 2019

Huglith Baryte Mine (Shropshire)

4 GCRG members were put on standby during the evening to help out MCRO (Midland Cave Rescue Organisation) with a dog rescue from the mine. They were not required.

LAND SEARCH SUPPORT TO SEVERN AREA RESCUE ASSOCIATION (since April 2019)

A number of GCRG members have volunteered to also be available for surface land searches, supporting SARA in their searches for missing people etc. Since the last newsletter (April 2019), GCRG has supported the following surface callouts.

10 April 2019, missing person, Cirencester

27 June 2019, missing person, Stinchcombe Hill

29 June 2019, missing person, Cirencester

12 July 2019, missing person, Cirencester

19 July 2019, missing person, Stow-on-the-Wold

16 August 2019, missing person, Bream

27 August 2019, missing person, Lydney Harbour

4 September 2019, missing person, Leckhampton (Cheltenham)

23 October 2019, missing person, Winchcombe

3 November 2019, missing person, Lydney

23 November 2019, missing person, Newnham

12 December 2019, missing person, Cheltenham

1 January 2020, missing person, Staunton

14 February, missing person, Mickleton (Chipping Campden)

5 April 2020, missing person, Berkeley

24 April 2020, missing person, Soudley (Forest of Dean)

3 May 2020, missing person, Upper Rissington

TRAINING SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER (April 2019)

Since the last newsletter, GCRG personnel have been involved in the following training events. Reports for some/all of these events can be found further on within this newsletter.

9 June 2019 **WETSINK**

7-8 September 2019 **RESCON** (Cave Rescue Conference @ Priddy)

8 December 2019 **DOWARSD/PANCAKE MINES**

23 January 2020 (Mines Rescue Exercise) **HOPEWELL COLLIERY**

8 March 2020 **COWSHILL**

REPORTS OF LANDSEARCH CALLOUTS (since April 2019)

14th February 2020

Area of search Mickleton, near Chipping Campden

Details provided by Kev Brockway

GCRG Land search team called out by SARA at approximately 19:00 hours to search for a high risk missing male in Mickleton near Chipping Campden. The team assembled at Stow-on-the-Wold Police Station to await deployment details, during this time food was delivered to before tasks were assigned. There was a delay as SARA wanted to complete a search of a specific woodland where the person's van had been found. During this search the person was sadly found deceased. The team waited whilst the relevant police enquiries were carried out before GCRG personnel assisted SARA in the recovery of the body from the bottom of a steep wooded area, to the roadside for the undertaker to take over. GCRG personnel involved, Paul Taylor, Rachel Brown, Kev Brockway, Dave Appleing, Jo Clarke and Colin Vickery.

A letter of thanks was subsequently made to SARA (and passed to the GCRG personnel) from the mother of the deceased person, thanking all who were involved in finding him and treating him with care and respect. She intends to plant some bulbs at the location where he was found.

5th April 2020

Area of search Berkeley

Details provided by Kev Brockway

Kev Brockway and Rachel Brown contacted John Dutton (SARA Land Search Manager) and offered their services when they were aware there was a high risk missing person, in their area, from Berkeley. John replied yes and asked Kev to send out a GCRG SARCALL alert (to the GCRG Land Search team).

Kev & Rachel joined Martin Holloway's team and set about a few areas to search. Having searched these areas with nothing found, they ended up close to the initial RV point on the A38. As per search protocol they carried on the search of the road side whilst returning to the RV. It was on this return that Martin found the missing person in a 1.5 metre deep ditch at the side of the road. Martin carried out the initial assessment of the casualty and Kev assisted with the aftercare before we helped her up the bank and into a waiting police van to keep her warm. Rachel stayed at the roadside and ensured all necessary communication was relayed to control and carried out a final search of the ditch afterwards for any personal possessions missed.

Of particular note, the importance of carrying out transition searching from the end of a search area back to the RV if ever involved in a land search. In this case it possibly saved a woman's life.

24th April 2020

Area of search Soudley (Forest of Dean)

Details provided by Kev Brockway

The Land search team were called out at 10:00 hours on 24th April 2020 to assist SARA in searching for a high risk missing person who had gone missing the previous day from Soudley. The GCRG personnel RV'd at Dean Heritage Centre where they assisted SARA with searching various locations around Soudley. The missing person was located on a hillside in Soudley by a police team. SARA casualty carers attended to the person and GCRG personnel assisted them in carrying the individual down to a land ambulance; carried out traffic control on the road before handing over to the ambulance crew and transferral to hospital.

GCRG personnel: Rachel Brown, Paul Taylor, Chris Crowley (Chris is not on the Land Search team but was with Paul at the depot when the call came through so came and assisted including a search of a level. Thanks Chris), Kev Brockway, Jo Clarke and Dave Appleing. Those on standby Emma Porter and Mike Clayton.

REPORTS OF TRAINING EVENTS SINCE APRIL 2019

9 June 2019 (Cave Rescue)

Wetsink

No writeup available but some photos from the day.



8 December 2019

Doward/Pancake Mines

Details provided by Jon Maisey

Today's training was a 'round-robin' of a number of stands/exercises covering the following: use of the Larkin Frame (over a cliff edge/gully); a search exercise around a number of the local cave/mine sites; drilling & bolt rigging (in one of the small mine entrances) + associated stretcher hauling & carryout. Due to a smaller than expected turnout (possibly due to being close to Christmas), instead of having a number of teams all doing the round-robin, it was decided to have the one team all working together. A good day for all who attended and by having lower than average numbers meant that (especially on the Larkin Frame) everyone got good hands-on training.



Photos by Paul Taylor

8 March 2020

Cowshill

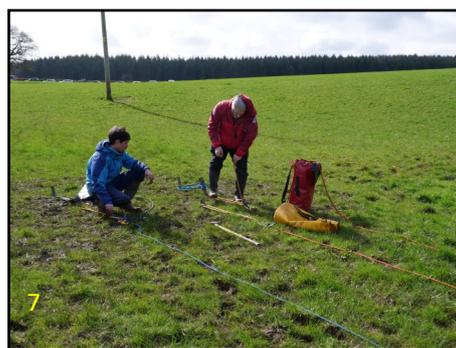
Details provided by Jon Maisey

Today would be the 1st time that GCRG had held a training event at this location. Given that it is an active dig site with some objective hazards, it was decided that GCRG ought to carry out an initial training exercise in order to get an idea of what would/would not work within the cave for rescue purposes. It was hoped that with sufficient numbers it would be possible to run 2 or 3 scenarios (which could include a stretcher carry from the base of GA (Golden Anniversary) Chamber; a stretcher carry from EA Chamber and a haul up the entrance ladder climb using the Larkin Frame. The latter being an opportunity for 'surface team members' to be actively involved).

The first team in made their way to GA chamber where they were to carry out a live casualty rescue using the short Slix stretcher. However, due to the recent heavy rain there was water running into the chamber, just where the casualty was located (there being nowhere else to put the stretcher).



Unfortunately the team soon found out that it had been a while since any of them had had to use the short Slix and a degree of 're-learning' was needed in order to work out what went where. Also at this time it was realised that the cas-bag brought down with the stretcher could not be used as it was the wrong type of bag and had no holes/zips through which to feed straps etc. Once the casualty had been successfully strapped into the stretcher, they were then hauled up the short pitch into the passage beyond. Along this narrow bit of passage, another issue was found with the Slix in that the lower section of the stretcher was separating from the upper half because the straps linking the two together didn't have enough 'spare' at the end & this was then pulling through and out of the buckles. At the next pitch, the casualty (by now pretty cold and wet) was taken out of the stretcher (tacklebags were then used to refill the stretcher) and the 2nd team took over (who had previously rigged the pitch) for the final haul/carry to the surface where team 3 used the Larkin Frame to successfully deliver the stretcher to the surface.



*Photos by Bartek Biela (1-4) and
Rebecca Perkins (5-11)*



Following the recovery of all personnel and equipment from the cave, the usual debrief was held where everyone had the chance to discuss the Exercise and identify where things worked and where things could be done better.

MINES RESCUE EXERCISE

23 January 2020

HOPEWELL COLLIERY

The following is an abridged version of the event report.

Exercise Scenario

Three miners are working underground in two separate locations within the mines complex. A report is received on the surface via the mine's communications system to say that there has been a collapse on the roadway between the two working areas and one miner is not able to get back to the surface. No details available as to any possible injuries for those on the other side of the collapse. The surface operator advised the miner trapped beyond the collapse that he should exit the mine via the mine's second way out and he would arrange to contact the emergency services and also ensure that a team was ready to evacuate via the second way out shaft. He was not able to enter the mine to establish any further information.

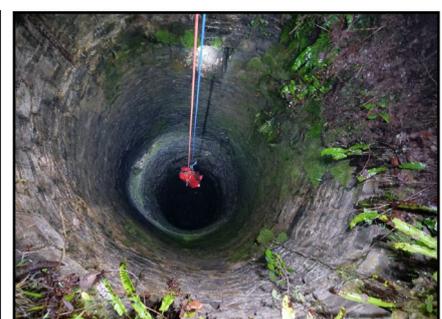
Contact has been made with the emergency services. Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) have sent out a SARCALL message to the GCRG wardens who in turn have sent a further SARCALL message to the Mines Team. A good level of response has been received.



Onsite Situation

GCRG deployed their landrover and command trailer to the site. Due to the remote nature of the site and the expected lack of mobile signal, the GCRG depot was manned and a radio comms link established from the incident site back to the depot. A SARCALL incident log was started and updated as the exercise proceeded. The GCRG France Phone was also set up in readiness. One casualty, Richard Daniels, was deployed into the mine to take up his position at a predetermined location.

Note: It had already been established that air quality underground was at an acceptable level. However, the incident casualty was carrying an air monitor and had been instructed to exit the mine if by the time of deployment air quality had deteriorated. No air quality problems were experienced in either the mine or at the second way out shaft.



Photos taken by Craig Cameron

Red & white barrier tape had been placed across the roadway to identify the location of the simulated collapse and to ensure no rescuers proceeded beyond this point. GCRG personnel set up the T-card board – this records everyone on site and their respective locations as well as available GCRG equipment. It was updated throughout the exercise when there were changes to personnel roles, movements and locations. A written log was also established which included the names of all who were in attendance.

Exercise Report

GCRG Warden Paul Taylor took overall command of the control and deployment of all rescue personnel and resources. A briefing of the exercise scenario was given to all who were on site. There were to be two separate locations; underground in Monument Colliery and at the mine's second exit, a shaft where the GCRG Larkin Frame was to be deployed

The briefing was based around the Exercise Scenario previously detailed.

Following the briefing a communications team of 3 was established to take the GCRG France Phone into the mine. This is an earth-return system that would provide communications from the incident location back to the surface.

The surface set and earth rod along with a reel of cable had already been set up by the GCRG control team

The comms team was supplemented by the addition of James Ashley from Monument Mine, who had absolute control and was equipped with an air monitor. This was conveyed to the team members; if James felt it was unsafe to continue the party would exit. Once at the underground incident location their first task was to provide a report back to the surface on the situation.

A second team were deployed to the second exit shaft to set up the GCRG Larkin frame. Initially a group of four under the direction of Gareth Jones, this team was supplemented by two further GCRG members who arrived later. They were equipped with all the necessary rigging equipment and a SAR radio to provide communications back to the GCRG incident control. The team also had a 5 gas air quality monitor.

Note: The purpose of this scenario was not to lower personnel to the bottom of the shaft, but to establish a working method for evacuation from the base of the shaft should the need arise. During the exercise the 5 gas air quality monitor was lowered down the shaft (but not right to the bottom, see report later), no alarms were triggered.

With the communications team underground the Deputy Gaveler entered the mine to carry out his own air quality monitoring.

Note: GCRG brought a total of 5 air quality monitors to the Exercise. O2 & Co2. In addition, a further 3 were on site and used.

The communications team (France 5) reported back to the surface that a casualty had been located within a section of up dip coal workings and that they had sustained a suspected injury from a falling timber. A request for medical assistance was made.

GCRG Advanced First Aider, Nicola Bayley was deployed assisted by two members of the mines team. They took in a first aid kit, splints and associated padding and were also equipped with an air monitor.

Report by Nicky Bayley (GCRG Advanced First Aider)

The casualty was found lying in an elevated confined side passage between props. The casualty responded to our calls and upon investigation he had suffered a blow to the head from a large piece of wood and had been knocked unconscious. Breathing, pulse and temperature were within normal parameters and a full "head to toe" survey showed no other injuries.

The casualty showed improved alertness as time went on so a concussion injury was suspected. Paracetamol, ibuprofen and heat packs were administered and the call made for a neck splint and a stretcher for evacuation. The neck splint was just used as a precautionary measure for when the casualty was being handled. Wooden planks were placed under the casualty to enable him to be slid gently down into the main passage and on to the Basket Stretcher. It would have been difficult to carry our slix stretcher out due to the prolonged confines of the mine passage. The stretcher was easily able to be pulled using a header rope and could sit on the rails for some of the journey.

In retrospect, I have a few things that I think I should have done differently:

As the casualty seemed uninjured except for the blow to the head, it may have been feasible for him to walk out slowly with assistance. I should have requested foam padding and straps to protect the casualty's head while in the stretcher and used the goggles. Maybe with the move away from neck collars we should get some head blocks. I am also unsure as to whether I should have used a spine splint or not.

It would also be very useful to have at least one other first aider underground as I can't see my own mistakes and it would be better training with feedback from another medic. Having said that, and complained about being the first aider, it was really good practice and it does all help to increase confidence should we be called out in anger.

Report by Richard Daniels (Exercise Casualty)

The initial contact was good, one of the mining members located me and checked the area was safe and well supported before the first aider attended, excellent.

Comms were very quickly set up and was a significant benefit both in time and safety. A lesson learned from our last exercise.

The First Aid first contact was excellent; comprehensive and reassuring. One suggestion is that casualty note taking might be undertaken by a volunteer to help out the first aider (a small point). Care at the accident site was good with team members taking instructions well from the first aider and getting involved.

A neck brace was fitted as a precaution as a blow to the head had occurred; this went smoothly with the first aider and assistant working well together

Removal to the stretcher was good given the confined space and difficult position. There was first class utilisation of locally found materials to provide a slide on which to move the casualty. Again, excellent cooperation and teamwork.

Once the assessment had been carried out and a stretcher requested, waiting for a stretcher seemed to take a long while. The first issue stretcher was unsuitable and had to be replaced with a rigid sort. It might be good practise to specify so as to avoid time lost in substituting.

Eye protection was sent back out with the first unsuitable stretcher. I was asked about contact lenses which was thoughtful. Suggest eye protection kept with each stretcher or in the First aid kit.

Once in the stretcher I felt secure. The movement from pit bottom to surface went well and seemed fast, however during the journey there were around five significant "jolts" or "bangs" which I believe may have been serious to a major head injury. Perhaps a balance of speed and caution under direction of the first aider is the answer? Getting the casualty out ASAP versus keeping the casualty well stabilised and taking more time to avoid bumps could be more important.

The stretcher was uncomfortable with regard to lack of sufficient head immobilisation and head seemed to be on a hard surface. Is more padding/ support available for this system? The provision of more padding would have helped alleviate the "bumps" and shock transmission experienced during carry out.

As the casualty I felt safe, secure and reassured.

Note from the Surface Control

Initially it had been planned to use the GCRG basket stretcher for the casualty evacuation but when a request for a neck collar was received on the surface from underground it was decided to send the GCRG Slix 100 stretcher underground for two reasons.

Firstly, the stretcher had neck collars within its kit and secondly based on the request for the neck collar it was thought that there may be spinal injuries and the casualty may require the firmer binding that this stretcher would provide as well as the spinal board.

Having deployed it to underground a further message indicating that the basket stretcher would be more suitable for the location and situation was reviewed and it was deployed underground.

Subsequent discussion has raised the possibility of using a full body vacuum mattress with the basket stretcher to improve the support and comfort of the casualty. This is planned to be tested at a future evening training session at the GCRG depot in approximately 6 months.

Throughout all of the proceedings information on the actions being taken were relayed by SAR radio back to the GCRG control where they were added to the SARCALL incident log. This worked extremely well throughout and added another dimension to the exercise as well as providing a link to the landline phone system if required, as mobile phone coverage at the site was extremely poor. Contact was also maintained with the larkin frame team throughout.

Report by Gareth Jones (Larkin Frame Lead)

Team: Jo Clarke, Dave Appleing, Dave Hardwick, Gareth Jones, Colin Vickery, Trevor Perkins, various Free Miners came down to view the operation.

The Monument Colliery second entrance is a 3-4m diameter shaft located approximately 70m up the old tramroad from its junction with the forestry track (before it crosses the valley bottom and continues on up to the mine). It is located within a sizeable locked compound which has a 2m high deer fence. There is also a standard height stock fence topped with barbed wire around the actual shaft top. The lock on the outer compound gate is a standard forestry lock. The forestry key, on the set of landrover keys we had, would not open this lock; fortunately, one of the cave rescue group had their own key with them. I led the team past the gate initially, failing to spot it in the dark!

A reconnaissance visit had previously been undertaken which had confirmed that the Larkin Frame could be easily deployed to this location; there is a suitably large flat area next to the shaft top with ample trees for belays; some within and some outside the compound. Most of the vegetation screening the shaft top had been cleared during the reconnaissance and the shaft estimated at 12 to 15m deep. While the landrover has a small bow saw and spade in it, would these have been sufficient to clear the vegetation? We also had a pair of bolt croppers with us as we knew we would have to cut the shaft top fence to deploy the Larkin Frame; however, these are not routinely carried in the landrover.

The team quickly assembled the Larkin Frame and began to set up suitable belays. These were all trees and only one outside of the compound was used with a rope protector where it ran under the fence. This was used both as one of the anchors for a hauling system and as the anchor for the Larkin Frame tail line. Two 30m kits, one 50m kit and a 50m SRT rope were taken to provide the ropes for the system.

I forgot about the extra bag of kit for the Larkin Frame so the Petzl Rig from the 50m kit was used with the 50m SRT rope as the frame tail rope. The other end of this SRT rope was used to provide 2 independent safety lines for team members on the edge of the shaft. It would have been better to have used a separate rope for this purpose, anchored to different trees, providing more separation. Two team members had full SRT kit with them and were the only personnel allowed near the shaft top. Once everything was ready and the pair suitably clipped onto safety lines, the shaft top fence was cut and pulled to one side. The frame was then lifted into place and the 2 ground anchor pins pushed by hand into the ground. On reflection the Larkin Frame should have been placed slightly further from the shaft top making it safer when dealing with actual casualties, while still providing a clear hang down the shaft.

The Deputy Gaveller had explicitly told the team not to lower anyone down the shaft so a weighted tackle bag was attached to the hauling lines and a 5-gas monitor secured to it. This was lowered down the shaft and while the alarm stayed silent the rigging was considerably short. One of the hauling lines was run out to its full length but the tackle bag was still short of the floor. The shaft was subsequently measured at 26m to the debris cone and confirmed as 90 feet (28 metres) by Ray Ashley. While we had two 50m ropes with us, so could have re-rigged if needed, we should have used the two 50m kits available on site in the GCRG Trailer from the outset. The 2 hauling ropes did get twisted around each other and it would be good to see if creating some separation between the 2 pulleys at the front of the Larkin Frame might improve this.

The Larkin Frame was perfect for this job and gave a clear and easy hang down the centre of the shaft. A floodlight was lowered down and photos taken looking down the shaft which looked in good condition to my untrained eyes (there is a 1m square opening built into the up-valley side of the shaft about 5m down). *[note: this was the first time that the Larkin Frame had been used where ground anchors were used to make the anchor points for the various ropes. Although the ground was very wet and additional anchors were added. No problems were experienced with any movement. Removing the anchors proved quite challenging. More work is needed to fine tune the ground anchor kit.]*

The fence around the shaft top was reinstated as best as possible on the night but should be checked by the colliery to confirm – some extra staples and 0.5m of stock fencing would have been most useful in this.

In light of the time it would take to get suitable kit and personnel to the shaft top to extract anyone, the mine could consider placing a cache of equipment near the shaft base to ensure that anyone waiting could stay warm and receive treatment with basic first aid kit?

With the casualty back on the surface Nicky Bayley provided a formal casualty handover report as if doing this to a paramedic.

A number of the team who had been involved with the underground session visited the surface Larkin Frame. A total of 29 people took part in the exercise made up from 10 GCRG and 19 miners.

Report from Daniel Howells, Deputy Gaveler

1. It was recognised that there would have been a suitable number of attendees present with the relevant skill-sets to break into two teams to reasonably address the two site scenarios – site 1 U/G, site 2 Top of shaft.
2. The GCRG L/Rover and trailer was in attendance and set up in a convenient location on site – a generator fault was noted but an alternative made available – there would have also been other electric provision available on this site if necessary.
3. An initial briefing was given by Paul Taylor regarding the U/G incident.
4. An initial reconnaissance team was NOT sent in ahead of the main group nor information relayed back prior to the 'coms' team entering the event site ie ground conditions/stability/obstruction/casualty/air quality etc.
5. There would appear to be (from those in attendance) a lack of advanced first-aiders within the 'mine' group and a member of GCRG was required to attend the U/G scenario.
6. The coms team worked efficiently and effectively.
7. NONE of the new MSA gas-detectors were present but I did note one electronic gas-detector in use (apart from the one I was carrying).
8. NO flame safety lamps were observed to be present or used – most of the collieries will have these and I would expect one to be available at a rescue event
9. Instructions, requirements and general information was and were clearly relayed via the comms system.
10. The U/G rescue was completed and casualty brought to surface in approximately 2 hours from first entering the mine. The only faux-pas I had observed was the wrong stretcher initially sent in but this was exchanged very quickly.
11. The newly constructed recovery stretcher on wheels is a 'working progress' but potentially be an excellent resource to have available.
12. The GCRG members working on site 2 over the shaft worked safely and efficiently – this was a perfect site for deployment of the Larkin frame which proved to be a huge success though rigging lines ended up short of pit bottom.
13. A good all-round effort from those in attendance and a huge thank you for the continued support of GCRG.

Casualty Movement Trolley Cart

During two coal mine familiarisation trips undertaken by Gareth Jones, Paul Taylor and Rich Daniels that came out of the meeting that had been held previously at the GCRG depot, it became very apparent that the moving of a casualty along the roadways in the mines would be quite difficult due to the low and confined nature of the route. Although not impossible any evacuation would be extended in time.

It was suggested that the use of some form of flat bed cart along these sections would certainly help and ease the difficulties. This would however be restricted to manual use only along the level roadways and not for mechanical hauling up any inclines back to the surface. Consideration also needed to be made for the various gauges of rail track used across the Forest free mines. Anything produced would need to be adjustable.

With these thoughts in mind a proto type flat bed cart was put on display at Monument Mine having been produced by Ray Ashley. It was available to be critiqued and was not intended to be deployed during the exercise.

Feedback already received indicated that straps would be required to hold the stretcher/casualty on the flat bed some side pillars would also help. The Dagger Bar needed to be improved.

A test carried out at Monument Colliery previously showed that the cart performed very well and certainly would make a considerable difference to casualty evacuation

Surface Control Report

Surface Control of the Incident was run along the same lines as would be used for a cave rescue incident. An overall controller with assistants to undertake the support roles. In this instance, running the T-Card board, manning the communications (SAR radio and France Phone) as well as keeping a communications log. With the link back to the GCRG Depot ensuring that the incident log was kept up to date. The T-Card board provides for a dynamic view of what is happening and who is dealing with the various aspects of the incident. Unfortunately, the stand for the T-Card Board was not deployed so it was not as prominent as it should have been.

The alternative location is on the side of the GCRG landrover but with this deployed to take equipment to the second exit shaft it could not be used.

A learning point for GCRG and the stand is now permanently stored in the GCRG trailer.

Work in the past has been undertaken to ensure that as many people as possible who attend incidents have an allocated name card in advance and for the majority of those attending this exercise they were covered. However, some new faces were present so hand written cards were produced but these will be updated to full cards ready for next time. When team members are allocated to a task or a team then the relative cards are grouped together on the board. Once that team is back on the surface or its members redeployed, it is a simple matter of moving cards. This all works very well and did so on the night. The manning of the communications SAR radio and France Phone were primarily dealt with by one person in the control trailer as they were relatively simple with only one France Phone deployed underground and two SAR radios primarily on the surface. One at the shaft and one at the GCRG depot. A third radio was carried by the Controller so that if away from the control point, he could be contacted. Managing of this level of equipment was easily dealt with by the team but if more items come into the various systems then further people would be required.

The amount of equipment deployed was also quite small so a tackle quartermaster was not required.

Overall the surface control ran very well.

Problems were experienced with the GCRG generator and as yet we have not got to the bottom of the problem. However on the night we were able to address the problem by using an alternative but also a check with the mine operators confirmed that we could have picked up power from their supply.

Conclusions

From a control perspective the level of expertise and involvement by those from the mining side was in my opinion a massive upgrade from the exercise 14 months previous. It was good to see that people "offered to do things" when asked. Jobs and tasks were done very professionally. The objective of getting the Miners Involved had been fulfilled.

Those in attendance from the cave rescue side took on primarily the jobs and roles where their expertise was well used. There were learning points but that is why practices are essential. We can move forward knowing that the team as a whole is quite capable of dealing with a real incident should the need arise.

Thanks To

Ray Ashley, Rich Daniels, Neil Jones and all at Monument Colliery for making the site available for the exercise. To Ray's wife for the excellent selection of cakes that were available. To Rich Daniels for being the exercise casualty. It is so much better when it is possible to use a live casualty rather than a dummy. The reaction and feedback are so much better. To everyone from both the mining and cave rescue side who supported the exercise.

GCRG REPRESENTED AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Tuesday October 16th 2018

It might seem strange to start this report by talking about Gareth Jones and myself working at my house at Massey Road on the decking for the area where my hot tub was to go, but that is where the story starts.

We were working away on Wednesday October 10th and I noticed that my phone was receiving quite a few emails. I briefly examined the phone and saw that there was one from Peter Dennis who is the BCRC Chairman and I thought I read something about giving him a ring ASAP but as it was a bright day it was difficult to read properly outside so I said to Gareth "I am going into the office to have a look at this email from Peter as it seems quite urgent".

With the computer turned on and the larger screen I could quite clearly now see that yes Peter did want me to ring him. Must be something going I thought. I got through to Peter and he cut straight to the chase. "Are you and Rose free for next Tuesday to come to a reception at Buckingham Palace and meet HRH Prince William" To be honest I thought he was having a joke at first but when I did not answer he repeated the question and then added "I need to know within the hour. It's to do with the Thailand Rescue ". Well I thought things like this don't happen very often and this was an opportunity of a lifetime so I just said YES. He said "right brilliant I will need some details from you. I will send an email. Thanks very much" and the phone went dead. I have to say that I sat in the chair for a couple of minutes wondering if it was all a dream and that I had imagined everything. But the next thing a further email arrived from Peter requesting various items of information about Rose and myself. Rose was at work at the time so I sent her a text message to say could she please contact me ASAP as I had something very important to tell her. I went back outside and told Gareth all about the conversation with Peter. It was not long before Rose rang and asked what the problem was. I said it was not a problem as such but she just needed to ensure that through whatever means possible that she got the following Tuesday off work. "Why?" was her question. "Because we are going to Buckingham Palace" "really " Yes we have been invited and I have already said we are going. Rose went to her boss and explained the situation and they gave her the day off. We sent off all of the information that Peter had requested and then thought about how we were going to get to Buckingham Palace for 0915 hrs on the Tuesday morning. Driving was not really an option unless we went the night before and stayed in a hotel. So we went for the train option to catch the 06.46 train from Gloucester to Paddington. Two return tickets were booked and even using our Railcards these cost a total of £256.00 and that was Second Class. First Class would have been around double that figure. Fortunately I have a Taxi Driver that lives opposite me and I arranged with him to take us to the railway station.

Tuesday 16th Oct.

I had already been down to the railway station and collected our tickets so once dropped off we were able to proceed straight to the platform. I had also booked two specific seats in Coach A and when the train came in we boarded and looked for our seats. Strangely we could not find them and so thought we must be at the wrong end of the train and so proceeded to make our way to the opposite end. However, then there was an announcement to say that unfortunately the train that had been supplied that morning was not the right one with only six carriages instead of nine and seat reservations did not apply. So we very quickly grabbed a couple of seats and sat down.

The trip up to London was uneventful but as you can imagine by the time we reached Reading there were lots of people having to stand up for their journey due to the train being less carriages than normal. Although the route for the train did not take us through Newbury as we passed through from Swindon to Reading I sent a text to Judi Durber as I knew she would be catching her train to London from Newbury around that time. I explained what we were doing and she wished us the best of luck. As it happened although we did not see Judi at Paddington station she was actually only a few minutes behind us.

Once at the station we left the train and now had 25 minutes to get to Buckingham Palace. A black cab was our only sensible option as the tube would have involved a lot more walking and time. We joined the queue and it was not long before we were directed to a cab which happened to be white. There was a little confusion getting in as I had not realised it had electronic locking / unlocking for the doors but we got there in the end and the driver asked us where we wanted to go. Buckingham Palace please.

The roads were, as you can imagine at 0900 hrs, absolutely full of traffic and I could see the time ebbing away but fortunately the driver knew some shortcuts that bypassed the main roads and we avoided the bulk of the traffic and it was not long before we were in the Mall and he turned across the road into one of the entrance approaches. He said he was not supposed to do it but as time was pressing hopefully we would get away with it. We had arrived with 1 minute to spare.

By now the sun was out and it was looking like it was going to be a very nice day. I paid the £15.00 for the taxi and we made our way over to Gate A where we had been instructed to meet everyone. It was nice to see lots of familiar faces and I found Peter so as to let him know we had arrived safely. Lots of excited chatting.

Our group was 50 in total and we were waiting for the last few people to arrive. While we were waiting a horse drawn carriage came up the Mall and went in via the entrance we were standing by and stopped at a set of steps. It was not long before a man came out carrying what looked like the post and got into the carriage and it set off and came back out and down the Mall. Only in England could something like this happen. Anywhere else they would just send a car. It probably happens every day and has done since time began.

One of the security guards came over to check that we were all present and then asked us to make our way down to Gate B where we would be going in. Unfortunately Peter had a call from one of the chaps in our group to say that due to travel problems he was not going to be able to make it. So with everyone else we made our way to Gate B.

Now you don't just walk in through the gate there are a lot of Police and a lot of guns so it is best to stick to the rules. One of the Policemen came over and explained what we were to do next and despite all previous communications and lists of identification all he wanted to see was our passports and we were to approach the gate in small groups.

So this is what we did and Rose and myself were in the third group. It was all going well until it was the turn of Rose. She presented her passport and they checked the list as the for the previous people. "Sorry you are not on the list" Said the rather large policeman "and I am afraid you can't go in". How could this be as we had supplied Peter with all of the details. I called him over and explained the situation. He checked his list and sure enough Rose was on the list. We now had to wait to see whether they would accept her. It was not a straight forward yes that's ok. Lists had to be compared and it had to be authorised by someone else. If he had said no then that would have been it. We finally got the ok and Rose went through the gate. What transpired is that Rose was down on the list as Rose Taylor but on her passport she is Rosemary Taylor. That is how critical they are. Fortunately for me I went through ok and joined Rose and the rest of our small group now on the inside of the railings. Another rather large policeman, again with lots of guns, came over to us and gave us the next set of instructions "You see the officer standing over by the palace. Walk straight towards him and do not wander off and NO STOPPING or Photographs." We did exactly what we were told to do and were now standing right against the palace walls.

This chap, who again had lots of guns, made us feel very easy, asked us all to wait and even told a few jokes and said that once he got the green light from the Household we would be allowed inside. Slowly our group made it through the first check and joined the rest of us and it was not long before we were instructed to make our way through the small side archway and enter the inner quadrangle. What I found quite strange about all of this was that there had been not physical checks of our bags or us. But I have a sneaky suspicion that the archway was an X-ray Scanner in disguise.

We were told that we could take Photographs in the quadrangle but that camera angles had to be kept low. Like the area outside the quadrangle is all small red stones that were all perfectly raked level. Martin Grass and his wife had brought two small suitcases with them as they had stayed in London Overnight these had wheels on them and all the way across the stones they left two trails. I commented that there had to be one. (I noted that when we came out the trails had all gone as the stones had all been raked flat and who ever had done that would need to come out again as Martin and his wife walked back across).

At the far side of the quadrangle there is a large canopy and this is where the carriages and cars pull up. Here we were met by two immaculately dressed members of the palace staff who welcomed us and directed us into the palace and up the stairs where we could leave bags and coats. Even this, in itself, was all very impressive. We were now in a very large corridor that was lined with lots of very impressive and very large paintings. Further staff directed us to the Breakfast Room where the reception was going to take place. This was located at the rear of the palace and we were able to look out of the windows into the gardens. I noted that even at the palace some of the grass looked very brown through lack of watering. At the far end of the room there was an area where tea, coffee and soft drinks plus cakes and biscuits were available. No bacon and eggs though.

With such a large number of people we were all organised into small groups; Divers, Support People who went to Thailand, and Support People who worked in the UK. Rose and myself were in the last group representing the Cave Rescue Teams who supported everyone else. Cameras were not allowed but there were official photographers and video cameramen in attendance. Some of which I recognised from seeing them on TV Programmes.

After about 15 -20 minutes a young lady from what I presume to be Prince William's Staff came in and introduced herself to each of the groups and explained that he was running slightly behind schedule and that when he arrived would everyone please keep talking in your groups. Thinking that this was in fact completely the opposite to what should be done I asked her why.

The reason being is that this way it keeps people at ease and there is not the sudden stop of chatter and they much prefer it that way. It was not long after this that I noticed Prince William arrive and as requested everyone just kept chatting and I could fully understand. Peter was introduced to Prince William and then he took him to each of the groups in turn. Peter came to our group and informed us that we would be next and that he would bring Prince William over and make the initial introduction and then leave us to chat.

William came over with Peter and as you can see from the photograph he shook my hand and what amazed me was that he knew my name & Rose's name and the names of everyone else. None of us had badges on. With 50 plus people in the room I was most impressed. He was very interested to know what part we had all played in the rescue. I explained that for GCRG it was very much about supporting those teams that had sent equipment out to the rescue (S&MWCRT had sent some Cave Links) and making sure our equipment was 100% ready so that should it be required by S&MWCRT we could easily and quickly get it to the required location. The others explained their roles. Kelvin Lake explained that he looked after the BCRC Website and the amount of "Hits" on the site had gone through the roof and it had been necessary to use a different Server to cope. William also asked about our rescue work within the UK and having been a Rescue helicopter pilot he had firsthand experience. I found him to be extremely knowledgeable and a very easy person to talk too. He spent about 15 -20 minutes with us before going off to have some photographs taken with the Divers. In total Prince William had been with our group for almost 1.5 hours which was much longer than had been planned so my guess is that the lady we saw earlier had further explaining to do as the day progressed. Further tea and coffee and then we started to make our way back as the room needed to be prepared for the next reception which was with the Queen.



Photo Credit: official Palace photographer and is reproduced with permission

Back along the corridors to collect our coats and bags and then back across the quadrangle where further trails were left by Martin and his wife with their respective suitcases. Back through the archway and then back across to the gate we had come in by. As we were approaching the railings we heard one person on the outside say to her friend "I wonder who that group was that were lucky enough to go inside". We saw the same big policemen at the gate and they asked if we had had a good time and enjoyed ourselves. A massive YES from everyone.

Once we were all back out on the public side of the railings it was an opportunity for a team photo, we then watched the Horse Guards arrive for the changing of the Guard and then two horse-drawn carriages arrived and went in through the gateway and we later learnt that this was the new German Ambassador and his wife and they were the people that the Queen was meeting.

There was lots of chatting before the main group set off to go and find somewhere to have a meal. Rose and myself decided that with nowhere actually booked it was going to take quite a while to find a restaurant that could cope with a group of around 40 so we decided to walk back to Paddington Station via Hyde Park as it was just an absolutely beautiful sunny morning. Although it was quite a distance it was well worthwhile. I commented to Rose that in the middle of the park we could quite easily have been back in the Forest of Dean. You could not see any of the large buildings, we were surrounded by trees, squirrels and birds and almost not a sound from any traffic. It probably took us around ninety minutes or so to walk back to the station and I had completely lost track of time. I asked Rose what the time was and she said just coming up to 1330 hrs. I looked up at the departure board and saw that there was a train going to Cheltenham at 1336 hrs so I said quick let's catch that one. It was a bit of a race but we made it. Found a pair of seats and just collapsed. Completely worn out but absolutely on a massive high from the whole experience. It was so nice not having to drive.

Approaching Gloucester I did wonder about asking the driver of the train if he could stop at the bottom of our garden as the train goes right past but realised I had not left a gap in the brambles on the embankment for us to get through. More planning next time. We had a taxi back to home as we were both completely exhausted and could not face the walk.

Back home we reflected on what had been just a wonderful day. We both felt extremely honoured and privileged to have been invited and one that we will both remember for the rest of our lives.



Photos taken by Paul Taylor



The following morning we woke to the news that during that morning a test train had been out along part of the route that our train had taken and had managed to rip down almost 600m of overhead electric cables. Lots of trains were now either stuck or were being severely delayed and Paddington station was closed. had this been on Tuesday our train would not have made it and we would have not been able to get to Buckingham Palace. I said to Rose that I think I would have just sat on the train and cried. We have a copy of the picture taken with Prince William on our wall at home and there is also a copy at the GCRG Depot.

Paul Taylor
GCRG Chairman

FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT INSPECTION COURSE

The course was run by Mike Clayton, BCRC Equipment Officer, aided by Emma Porter.

The course was split into three sections: legislation, equipment checking and record keeping.

To summarise legislation, most equipment we use in this regard is Class 3 PPE, which means that failure would result in “very serious consequences such as death or irreversible damage to health”.

Manufacturers are required to mark equipment which includes a batch or serial number to allow us to identify date of manufacture. They are also required to provide guidance on the maximum life of the product. Instructions on the use and care and maintenance of the equipment must be provided.

Textile equipment (harnesses, ropes, slings etc) should be checked by a competent person on a regular basis and recorded. As this is a summary, I won't go into all the details of checking, but it's essentially a visual and tactile check. Textiles can be washed in water (no detergents) at no more than 30 degrees C. Textile equipment subjected to high load or shock loading should be scrapped immediately.

Metal equipment (krabs, mallions, pulleys etc) again are visually checked and includes a function check. It is important to clean and maintain, for example oil metal equipment.

Record Keeping. This can be quite complex as we need to be able to identify each piece of equipment. This necessitates finding the codes on labels for textile equipment and engraving on metal equipment, and then for us to mark every item so we can identify it individually (we may have 30 identical steel oval krabs). Where there is a recommended life span, we need to be able to identify when that piece of equipment must be taken out of service. The checker must be give the authority to quarantine or scrap equipment.

The key to an easy life is to make each piece of equipment easily identified. This is best done when new and first put in service. Records can be paper or electronic (backed up!).

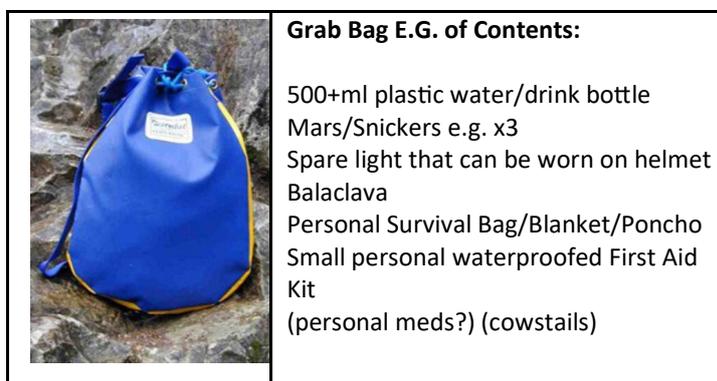
Report provided by Colin Vickery

PERSONAL CAVING EQUIPMENT FOR CAVE RESCUE

Being Ready for a Call Out and Ready to Help the Team

A rescue call out could come at anytime and quite probably in the middle of the night. Are you ready to respond quickly? Is your kit packed ready to go? Do you have a 'Grab Bag' with food and extra equipment? 8 hours later in the cave are you going to be part of the rescue solution or are your own needs and lack of preparedness going to be a drain on the team?

If you can turn up for a call-out fully equipped and ready to help then you maximise your usefulness to the team. Conversely, if you need to be supplied with basic equipment and later need to be fed or cared for in other ways, then you add a load to the team's support structures. The key is preparation and planning.



After a personal caving trip get in the habit of processing your kit immediately. Don't let it fester! Hang it up, dry it, pack it ready for the next trip or rescue. Charge your lamp and/or have a spare fully charged.

Rescues involve a lot of hanging about and can be very extracted. You are going to need more warm clothing than usual. An extra thermal T-shirt and balaclava are the minimum extra clothing. A personal survival bag/poncho, food and drink and spare light are other minimum requirements. A Good way to be prepared is to have these items stored ready to go in a Grab Bag. A small tackle bag/SRT Kit Bag such as in the image below should work well. It can be worn clipped to your 'load bearing' belt or more likely forced into the top of the GCRG Equipment Bag you will be carrying.

For surface searches and surface support duties, such as manning a communication post, you can put your grab bag into a rucksac and add a few more items such as a compass and perhaps a few luxuries such as a flask of hot drink and extra clothing.

If you are going to be underground in a system that involves climbs and or pitches you are going to need to add the minimum of a 'load bearing' belt and cowstails for a quick security attachment or if the rescue is more vertically orientated, such as in Wetsink, then the minimum of a harness or SRT kit.

GCRG recommend that any personal safety equipment or PPE is fit for purpose, CE marked and checked for suitability for its age and wear. GCRG PPE checkers can provide this service for you – just ask. Ultimately it is still down to you to check your personal safety kit before each use to ensure it is safe to use and won't put you or other team members at risk. The key thing is making sure you and your kit are prepared, allowing you to respond quickly, safely and effectively to a rescue call out.

*Report provided by Ian Healey, GCRG Training Coordinator
With thanks to consultation with Gary Evans of SMWCRT*

DONATIONS MADE TO GCRG

Back in March 2019 (but too late to go into the newsletter at the time), GCRG received a very welcome donation of £200 from Ross-on-Wye Lions/Leos due to the efforts of Greg Jones, Craig Cameron & Trevor Perkins to promote the group. According to Craig, quite a few of the Leos/Lions were unaware that a cave rescue team existed locally now they know who & what the group is all about!



FUNDRAISING

Easyfundraising

We are so close to £1500.00 raised from this FREE fundraising activity!

Please remember to use easyfundraising every time you shop online! Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate, so you can raise FREE donations for us no matter what you're buying. These donations really help us out, so please sign up if you haven't yet. It's easy and FREE! You can get started at

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/gcaverg/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=en-n2

Don't forget to download the reminder button to your browser, one click (sometimes two) and it is done!

As an example, if you're thinking of changing your broadband provider, BT are offering a free donation of up to £42.50 for Gloucestershire Cave Rescue Group when you go via #easyfundraising.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/retailer/bt-broadband/>

Don't forget this is FREE money.

feel good shopping

£31M
Raised

Raise up to £42.50 for us

when you switch
broadband provider

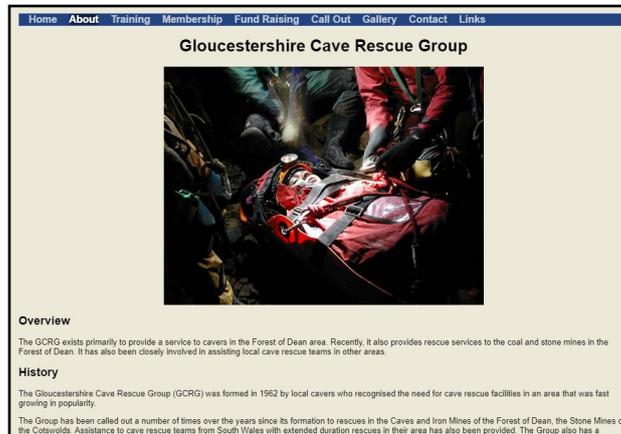
GCRG WEBSITE

The GCRG website is comprised of the following 'tabs' (see below)



ABOUT

An overview to the group, its history since being formed in 1956 (a link to the 50th anniversary document), a video "Overview of Cave Rescue" and links to press clippings & media reports.



TRAINING

Provides details of the training that is provided by the group throughout the year



MEMBERSHIP

Provides details of how to join the group & also links to old newsletters



FUND RAISING

Shows how you can help raise funds for GCRG via 'Virgin Money Giving', 'Easy Fundraising' and 'Gift Aid'.



CALL OUT

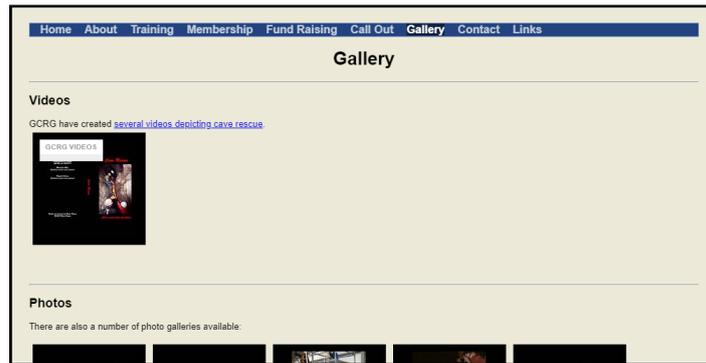
In the event of a callout, this is the procedure:

1. Dial 999
 2. Ask for GLOUCESTERSHIRE POLICE
 3. Then ask for CAVE RESCUE
 4. Be prepared to give as much information as possible about the location of the cave, the cavers involved and the injuries sustained.
 5. STAY BY THE PHONE
 6. A Cave Rescue Warden will call you back for more details

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GALLERY

A large collection of GCRG-related photos & video links



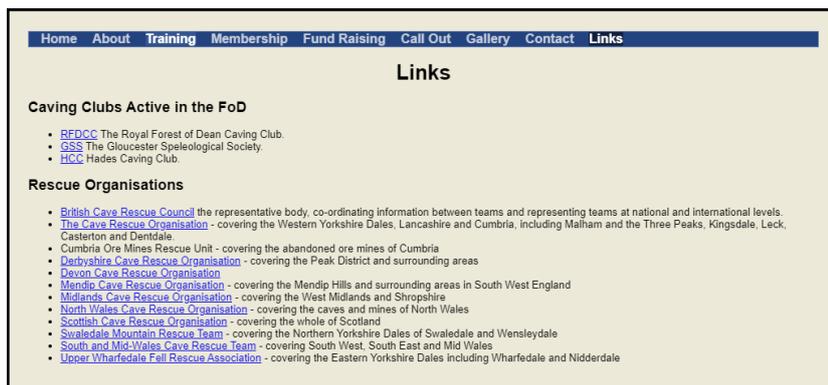
CONTACT

Provides details of the main contact emails to use.



LINKS

Links to the 3 main clubs (that make up GCRG) , & other rescue organisations etc.



GCRG ON FACEBOOK



GCRG has its own presence on FB (see the link below)

<https://www.facebook.com/Gloucestershire-Cave-Rescue-Group-1828966887343731/>



Here you will find regular updates regarding the activities of the group and its members (including GCRG's support to local land search operations).

GCRG SHOP



GCRG currently has enamel badges and buffs/neck tubes/beanie hats for sale.

Badges ... £3 each (plus postage, if necessary)

Buffs/neck tubes (available in black or red) ... £10 each (plus postage, if necessary)

Beanie hats ... £10 each (plus postage etc)

Any of these are available at any GCRG event or can be posted out as well (subject to postage costs).

Contact the Chairman or Secretary for further details.

Nicky may still have some mugs for sale, if interested please contact Nicky Bayley.



Other GCRG-branded clothing may be able also be available, contact the Chairman or Secretary for further details.

