

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 18



GLoucestershire
CAVE RESCUE
GROUP

Cave rescue since 1965, covering the Forest of Dean, Lower Wye Valley, Cotswolds and Thames Valley.

GCRG Depot, Littledean Hill, Cinderford, Glos, GL14 2TT, Phone: 01594 827999

Registered Charity No.
900316

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May 2022

Items of interest in this issue

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- *Mines Rescue training @ Wallsend Freemine Page 8*
- *Joint training at Emmer Green chalk mine Page 11*
- *Significant donation to GCRG from CDG Page 16*

Editorial

The last GCRG newsletter was in September 2021 and much has happened since then, most notably the OFD rescue in November 2021 and the longest in UK caving history. GCRG played a significant role in this callout and many members of the group took part, some doing more than one trip underground during the callout. There is an extensive writeup by Paul Taylor about this on page 4. More details can also be found in Descent Magazine No. 284.

Many thanks to everyone who has taken the time to write articles and provide photos for this newsletter, without their support there would be little here to read. Apologies to anyone who may have pro-

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GCRG COMMITTEE

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GCRG WARDENS AND OTHER CONTACTS

GCRG Depot	01594 827999				
Wardens	Mobile	Home	Other Contacts	Mobile	Home
David Appleing	07804 300598	01242 581385	Dave Tuffley [Forest Mines]	07799 617934	01594 824343
John Berry	07979 791083	01594 822823	Jon Maisey [Cotswold Stone Mines]	07922 267052	01666 504647
Kevin Brockway	07970 033345	01453 511100			
Andrew Clark	07707 992510 07411 207149	01600 716970			
Ladi Broadman	01594 832023				
David Hardwick	07780 676341	01454 299035			
Colin Vickery	07548 240124	01684 293202			
Martin Holloway					
Greg Jones	07974 008519	01989 218763			
Paul Taylor	07803 539945	01452 505673			
Pete Turier	07462 181899	01452 539199			

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SARCALL & HOW TO USE IT

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.

SARCALL Information for Team Members

When you receive a SARCALL SMS alert sent by a GCRG warden reply to it to indicate your availability.

If you are unable to reply by SMS text message try using the GCRG specific SARCALL response web page.

Alternatively call the originating warden or the depot where a message may be left on the answerphone.

The SMS text message **MUST** take one of the 3 formats below:

SAR ▲ Axx ▲ message if you are available

SAR ▲ Lxx ▲ message if you have limited availability

SAR ▲ N ▲ message if you are unavailable

Where

▲ = a space

xxx = time in minutes until you will arrive at RV point

message = relevant additional information, free text.

Changes to your details? Email info@gcrg.org.uk

TRAINING/EXERCISE EVENTS since September 2021

Since the last newsletter, GCRG personnel have been involved in the following events.

Reports for some/all of these can be found further on within this newsletter.

21st November 2021 Emmer Green chalk mine (with SECRO & MCRO)

25th November 2021 Mines Rescue exercise at Wallsend freemine, Forest of Dean

12th December 2021 'Round-Robin' training at the GCRG depot

13th March 2022 Bixshead stone mine exercise (with MCRO & SMWCRT)

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CAVE RESCUE CALLOUTS since September 2021

During the weekend of 6-8 November 2021 GCRG was called out to take part in the rescue of a badly injured caver from OFD. This rescue turned out to be the longest rescue in British caving, 54 hours long. This beat the previous record from 1980 which was the rescue of Tim Flannagan from the furthest reaches of Agen Allwedd.

Many GCRG members took part (whether on the surface or underground) and some had more than one trip into the cave over the weekend. Much was written in the media, with some of the newspaper articles included here.

The following report is from Paul Taylor covering the whole incident period (including the 9-10 Nov as well) and his role as Incident Press Officer.

Unfortunately, my phone has not recorded the time of the initial call to me from Toby Dryden to provide a heads-up on the incident in Cwm Dwr. However, I have checked the GCRG SARCALL Log and was able to confirm that this was recorded at 14.33. I then sent a SARCALL message to the GCRG wardens to give them the advanced information at 14.57. I then received a second call from Toby at approximately 15.45 requesting a full team response from GCRG and to request my presence at SWCC. I then sent out a SARCALL to the full GCRG team at 15.50. On route I called into the GCRG depot and collected the new BCRC cas bag and heated jacket. I arrived at SWCC at 19.20 approximately &

I was then given access to the internet upstairs above the rescue store and proceeded to work with Nicky Bailey on the numbers and names of people responding from GCRG. I was in contact with Pete Turier who had taken over from Colin Vickery as the GCRG point of contact back in Gloucestershire. This generally worked very well. Having this link made life a lot easier and further people were contacted and equipment requirements from the GCRG depot passed on for delivery the next day.

“the longest rescue in British caving” As the evening progressed, I put forward the suggestion that contact should be made with Craig Holdstock (Dr) as I felt he would have a good input into the ongoing incident. An initial discussion with Craig was undertaken by Claire [who??] and further contact was made from Control and at 03.00 hrs on Sunday 7th he was requested to attend. At approximately 04.30 hrs I was able to grab a few hours' sleep till 07.30 hrs. Jo Clarke from GCRG arrived on site at approximately 10.00 hrs.

By this time, I had been asked by Control if I would take on the job of the Incident Press Officer which I was more than happy to do. (It is worth recording that I have no formal training in this area but undertook the same task some years previously for a major incident in Otter Hole Cave). This is in my opinion a very important task and one that needs to be undertaken when an incident of this magnitude is unfolding. Once confirmed with Control I wrote out a short list of items that I felt we needed to cover before we proceeded further:

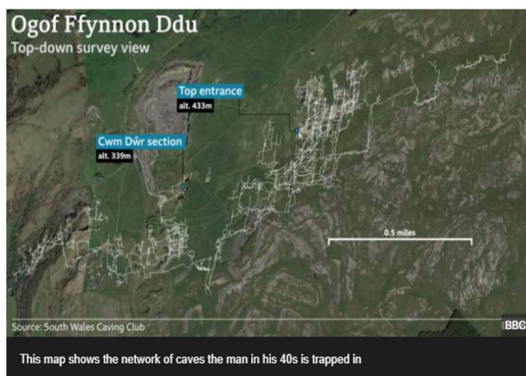
How much do the next of kin know? Has his name age and injuries been revealed to anyone? We need to prepare a press statement and this would be what we would stick too? Where do we take the media to for the briefings? All people on site involved with the rescue need to be informed who the Press Officer is and not to speak to the media but refer back to the Press Officer. I would need an assistant.

Peter Francis was asked to assist and Jo Clarke also helped. With the assistance of Sue Goodhead, Toby Dryden & Tony Hamlett (BCRC Legal Officer) we drew up a press statement. Graham Christian assisted with the typing and printing.

Peter and myself then had a discussion with Julie (casualty's partner) to establish what information had been passed to the casualty's next of kin. At this point in time she confirmed that they had not been informed. I asked her if she would deal with this as a matter of urgency as I was expecting the media to start taking an interest in the inci-

18:57

The complex network that makes up Ogof Ffynnon Ddu



f t Share

booked into Control.

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dent and I did not want to issue any statements until they were fully informed.

During this period Control arranged for a Police Officer to attend the incident site and place a cordon on the approaches. We also had a discussion with Gary Vaughan (Chairman SWCC) as to the ground rules we would work to in respect of the media and the SWCC Property. No members of the media were to enter the buildings and access onto the property would be restricted as far as possible to the area around the entrance gateway and just inside.

(It is worth recording that for the most part this was respected and controlled with additional manpower resources. When the Land-rover came through carrying the casualty late on Monday evening we were not able to control the media but I think it's fair to say that they did not hinder the progress).

Once I had received confirmation from Julie that the next of kin had been informed; from the police officer I then obtained the phone number for the Dyfford-Powys police press officer (Emma Northcote) and we had a discussion about the situation over the phone. Emma requested that we send her a copy of the press statement (this was actioned by Graham Christian) and we agreed between us that she would not post the statement on any of the police platforms as this would greatly reduce the risk of information getting out and hold off the media for as long as possible. I personally consider this to have played a very significant part in the delay of the media interest.

Additional work carried out during the day was to assist with kit preparation and to arrange for additional GCRG personnel to attend the incident. During Sunday evening I was made aware that the HART team were experiencing some difficulties in obtaining sufficient O2 Cylinders to meet the demands of the incident. I informed Control and the HART team that I would make contact with SARA (Severn Area Rescue Association) in Gloucestershire and arrange for some additional cylinders to be brought in. This was arranged through John Dutton and with a link up to Jo Clarke who had returned to home, a total of 9 O2 cylinders were brought to the SWCC HQ for 01.00 hrs Monday 8th. These were added to the 1 that had been left by Martin

Holloway earlier in the evening. These cylinders were duly marked up and placed in the store ready for deployment if required. Once John had departed, I went to bed at 02.00 hrs.

At approximately 04.50 hrs I received the first call from the media. I did not answer this call. At this point in time, I checked in with Control to let them know and also to inform them that there was a quantity of Hot Packs from GCRG in the rescue store. I returned to bed and got up at

08.00 hrs. Checking in with Control who informed me that one member of the media was on site but others who had called had been asked to phone back from 09.00 hrs.

It is fair to say that at 09.00 hrs the 'flood gates' opened but with our planning in place and statements ready to hand out we were as ready as we could be to meet the wave. I am not going to detail every single item that I dealt with during the day other than to say it was a lot. Peter Francis assisted where information about the cave was needed as did Jules Carter and I am most grateful to them for this. Although I know about the cave it is limited and I found that actually not knowing too much

allowed me to concentrate on my job and by bringing in the extra people it gave the media something different.

As the day progressed in consultation with Control, we were able to update the press statement by providing basic injury information and the numbers of people involved. Although only small this helped considerably in keeping the media happy. I know that some of the media people went up to the Top Entrance and we did try and advise them not to go but we could not stop them as the area is open to the public. I hope they did not cause too much havoc.

Back down at the bottom I was informed by Control that the casualty's exit from the cave was approaching. Between us we worked out a plan of action and at the appropriate point in time Gary Evans and Gary Mitchell came out and presented the information to the media. This worked very well. I concluded the interview by thanking the media for all of their support and respect that they had given us. Subsequently, the casualty was brought down off the mountainside in the cave rescue landrover past the SWCC HQ and away down the hill to the waiting ambulance.

14:33
Co-ordinator describes 'challenging' rescue



Underground controller Julian Carter has done two shifts in the past 10 hours, coordinating efforts.

While he described it as a "challenging rescue", he said conditions have been generally good with water levels low and the care of the casualty "exemplary".

As the third largest cave in Great Britain, he described its appeal: "It has three entrances, and you can traverse each entrance around this amazing landscape.

"Some of it is crawling, some horrible, other parts just fabulous, through the active streamways, around the remarkable landscape."

He also praised all the volunteers who have taken the day off work to help.

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During Monday there was a request from the media to speak to someone who had been on the Thailand rescue and in particular Jon Volanthen who somehow, they seemed to have got a bit of an inkling that he was on site. I said it would be unlikely and although I knew what the answer would be I wanted to be seen by the media to be helping where I could so I made contact with Control. I returned to the media point and said I'm very sorry but we have spoken to the person concerned he is a private person and has declined. They were ok with this. However, what I feel particularly proud of is that as I was in the process of delivering this piece of information John was actually walking by not 5 m away from us. I saw out to my right I did not acknowledge him nor he me. I don't think this was wrong I was just doing my job and to be honest I felt it was also irrelevant to the rescue in hand. With our casualty now out of the cave and away that was not the end of the media work as further interviews took place during Monday evening via Zoom and telephone calls.

I remained at SWCC on the Monday night for two reasons. One, I just did not feel like driving home as I was extremely tired and secondly there were requests to make further TV interviews early on the Tuesday morning for the various early morning news programmes. Steve Thomas and myself conducted quite a number of these either together or on our own covering the aftermath and what it was like underground. From just after 07.00 hrs through to finally concluded by 13.00 hrs when I was able to depart for home. I did not take any more notice and headed for home. On the way I was phoned by a number of media people who were still requesting the casualty's name. I declined to give it. I also gave an interview to BBC Radio Scotland from the Asda carpark on the side of the Heads of the Valley road and enroute organised a member of GCRG - Martin Holloway - to undertake an interview for BBC Radio Gloucester. I finally reached home at 15.00 hrs.

Throughout the rest of the afternoon and into the evening approximately every 30 – 45 minutes my phone would ring and a name would be offered forward as that of the casual-

ty. These were wrong and I confirmed this. I made a phone call to alert one individual that his name was being linked to the incident just in case it went out. At approximately 22.30 hrs I was presented with two names of which George's was one. At this point I made the decision to confirm that the second name was incorrect and that I would neither confirm or deny the first. Further calls followed with George's name and I applied the same response. The media had obviously undertaken a lot of detective work by then as

some were even able to tell me that I had been caving with George in Otter Hole cave. One even knew the dates. My last interview was for BBC Points West and this was conducted via a zoom call at 14.30 hrs on Wednesday and went out as part of the report at approximately 18.00 hrs.

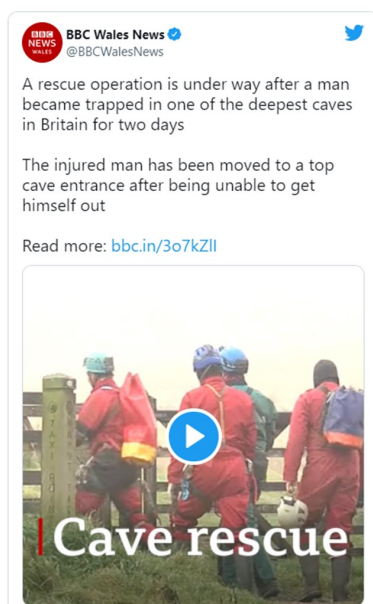
Conclusions

1. Making an early decision to appoint a Press Officer was very good as it gave a head start.
2. Speaking with the Press Officer at the Police was another key point.
3. Having at least one assistant is essential. In reality we could probably have done with one more.
At one point in time, I had 40 WhatsApp messages and 30 text messages on my phone unanswered but still dealt with a vast amount with at least 65 phone calls. From my side of things, having taken on the role of the Press Officer I forgot to get someone else from GCRG to act as the group's liaison point. Something I should have done and will make a note in my report back to GCRG. As it transpired nothing serious happened but I did lose that link.
4. Keeping my phone charged was an issue as I could not go and put it on charge as I needed it at all times. Fortunately, someone lent me a battery pack charger and this kept me going.
5. Although it was wet on Monday it was workable. Had it have been any wetter we would have struggled to maintain our location outside. Thought

12:38

Rescue in one of Britain's deepest caves

The injured man has been moved to the top of the cave as the rescue operation to get him out continues.



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needs to be given as to how this would be dealt with under more adverse conditions. We would have needed shelter. The location we were in (by the bins near the gate) just about had phone and Internet coverage. Had this not been possible the situation would have been very different. Need to think about this.

11:36

Injured man being moved towards cave entrance by rescuers

An update has been given on how teams have been working together in the rescue.

Paul Taylor, spokesman for the South and Mid Wales Cave Rescue team, said: "On Saturday, 6 November 2021, a male caver was undertaking a trip in the Ogof Ffynnon Ddu cave system and fell, resulting in some injuries that meant he could not exit under his own steam.

"A fellow caver notified the police and the South and Mid Wales Cave Rescue Team initiated a response.

"This incident is ongoing and involves cave rescuers from teams across the UK, Gloucestershire Cave Rescue Group, Midlands Cave Rescue Organisation, Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation, Mendip Cave Rescue, the South East Cave Rescue Organisation, the cave rescue organisation and the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association and other associated teams.

"The response to the incident has continued during the night and we are moving the casualty towards the top entrance of the cave, which is located upon the mountain and will be the point of exit."

The extent of the man's injuries are currently unknown.

6. *Being able to bring in people to provide more details of the cave. Peter Francis and Jules Carter worked very well and kept the media happy.*
7. *Working with the media is in my opinion essential. Having the one point of contact also works very well. I may not have always known the answer to all of the questions but I was able to get the answers and this kept the media very happy. We built right from the outset a very good working relationship with them. I laid down the ground rules and they respected this.*
8. *Having the printed statement was excellent and took a lot of pressure off us as a team dealing with the media. In general, all of the interviews went very well. When additional people were interviewed, I briefed them first on what they could say and what not to say in a general way. I was not trying to control them but just to make sure we all stayed working down the same line. A couple of times I had to step in. That was the media doing their jobs but it went well and the media respected this. Gary Evans also dealt with a considerable*

amount of media interest but via the phone we were able to chat to one another and make sure again that we were both following the same line. Nothing would have been worse than two conflicting statements.

9. *A Press Officers kit could be a good idea. Pens, waterproof notebook, clip board etc.*

10. *Had the rescue continued then it would have been essential to have another person who could step into the role for during the night to allow the main person to rest. This person may well just give out further updated printed statements just to keep the media happy and say that the main press officer would be back on duty at say 08.00 hrs in the morning.*

Throughout the whole time that I dealt with the media I received a number of comments back from them both verbally and by subsequent text messages to say a massive thanks to everyone in the press team and the rescue team in general for the very high level of professionalism that had been extended to deal with the media and the information that had been supplied. We built some very good bridges. The role of the Press Officer is not an easy one and I see it as providing a significant buffer between those organising the rescue and the media. There needs to be an understanding between both sides. I was more than happy to take on this role and I hope that everyone was satisfied with what I and the team did. I was particularly pleased that we were able to keep the casualties name and injuries out of the media for a considerable period of time.

Only the Daily Telegraph - to the best of my knowledge - obtained the full details and I can assure all concerned that this did not come from the press team.

Overall, my personal thoughts are that we (the Press Team, those that were interviewed and the general rescuers) did a very good job. I am sure there is much that will come out of this rescue that we can all take forward for the next time.

Paul W Taylor
Incident Press Officer
Chairman GCRG.

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EXERCISE: 'MINES RESCUE' AT WALLSEND FREEMINE

25 November 2021

The yearly 'mines rescue' training exercise involving the GCRG members of the 'coal mines' team and representatives from the GFRS, SARA and Glos Police.

The scenario involved a miner at Walls End freemine who had been involved in an accident and it was his colleague who had left the mine to raise the alarm.

In the scenario, the police had received the initial call, passed this onto GFRS who had then issued a SARCALL to the GCRG wardens who then initiated the GCRG callout.

For the exercise, GCRG provided surface incident control (landrover and trailer in attendance) as well as the first aid for the casualty, the use of 2 GCRG stretchers (the short slix and the rigid) and 3 other members underground to assist with the extraction.



For the exercise, GCRG provided surface incident control (landrover and trailer in attendance) as well as the first aid for the casualty, the use of 2 GCRG stretchers (the short slix and the rigid) and 3 others underground to assist with the extraction. GFRS were responsible for the inner cordon around the site as well as providing a bridge across the steep ground/stream between the mine and the road. SARA were responsible for setting up the larkin frame in preparation of removing the casualty from the mine via the lower shaft.

With Paul, Jo & Gareth providing the surface support, Craig, Kev & Jon were tasked with making their way over to the casualty (Craig to provide the advanced first aid and Kev & Jon to take in the slix). The casualty [Raif Evans] was located in one of the lower and constricted



galleries. The passage being not much more than shoulder width wide and not a great deal higher.

The casualty had a number of simulated injuries, including a head wound and loss of a finger and these were dealt with by Craig while in a very confined and filthy environment; keeping the various dressings clean being quite a challenge! Nicky (who had previously gone down to the casualty) was on hand to offer support & advice to Craig if needed but not to actually get 'hands on'.

Once the casualty had been stabilised it was time to put him into the short slix. This proved to be something of a challenge as [1] there was hardly any space to even get the slix out of its bag and [2] access to the casualty was only available at head/feet ends and space really



was minimal—luckily Raif was able to provide some movement and enable the slix to be moved under him. Had the casualty been unconscious with back injuries then the situation would have been considerably difficult and more serious to deal with. In addition to the lack of space, the water/mud/coal dust mix made everything the same colour, making it particularly difficult attaching the matching

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EXERCISE: 'MINES RESCUE' AT WALLSEND FREEMINE

pairs of colour-coded straps on the slix when they're all the same colour, ie black! - all the more reason for pre-training & familiarisation on the equipment.

With the casualty successfully strapped into the slix it was time to drag him out of the narrow confines of the gallery and into the larger passage beyond. Once again, without the casualty being conscious enough to be able to roll onto one side in order to get him through a particularly narrow section, getting an unconscious casualty would have been really difficult given that only 2 rescuers were able to get to the stretcher (one at each end) at any time—the passage being only approx. shoulder-width high - until the larger passage could be reached. Eventually the larger passage was gained and progress was quite swift (plenty of hands on at this point to drag the stretcher) as the stretcher was slid across boards placed on the floor up until the main passage was reached. At this point the casualty was then transferred to the rigid stretcher for the straightforward carry out via the original inclined entrance.

The original idea had been to evacuate the casualty via the lower shaft, but due to time constraints it was decided to get the stretcher out via the main entrance everyone had gone in by.

A quick debrief was held on the surface and various points discussed.

A successful exercise and appreciated by all involved.

Members taking part were: Paul Taylor, Nicky Bayley, Jo Clarke, Gareth Jones, Kev Stephens, Craig Cameron, Jon Maisey & Raif Evans.

Photo credits: Nicky Bayley (underground), Paul Taylor & Jo Clarke (surface)



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EXERCISE: 'MINES RESCUE' AT WALLSEND FREEMINE



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EXERCISE: EMMER GREEN CHALK MINE, READING

21 November 2021

A joint training exercise with members of SECRO (South-East Cave Rescue Organisation) and MCRO (Midlands Cave Rescue Organisation). The location of Emmer Green is in the area jointly covered by GCRG/SECRO & MCRO in the event of a callout.

Although the Exercise was to actually take place on the Sunday, most of the attendees took the opportunity to arrive at the location - the scout hut of the 89th Reading Scouts (Milestone Wood) - on the Saturday evening in order to make a social event of it. An excellent meal was had by all & this was then followed up with a number of excellent & interesting caving/rescue presentations.

On the Sunday, before the assembled cavers, Paul Taylor put forward the scenario which was of 3 missing (possibly injured) cavers who were in the nearby mine & which was unknown & not surveyed. Paul then left the assembled throng to sort out amongst themselves who was going to do what!

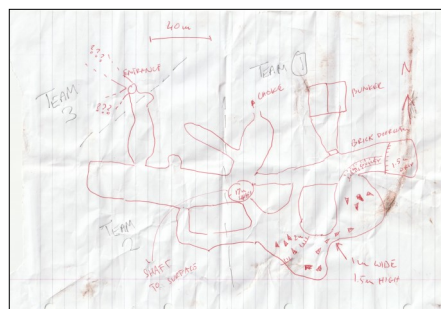


After a short space of time volunteers stepped forward to take on board the various roles/tasks required and a plan started to take shape. Given the mine (in this scenario) was unknown, it was decided that a survey team needed to go in first in order to carry out a basic survey & provide suitable maps for the search teams to

use. Once the survey team went in, underground comms (using Cave Link) was set up and the entrance shaft was rigged for stretcher hauling (if required).

Once the casualties (only one being used in the end due to time constraints) were located, the stretcher was then taken to the base of the shaft where the casualty was then taken out and replaced with weighted tacklebags and hauled to the surface.

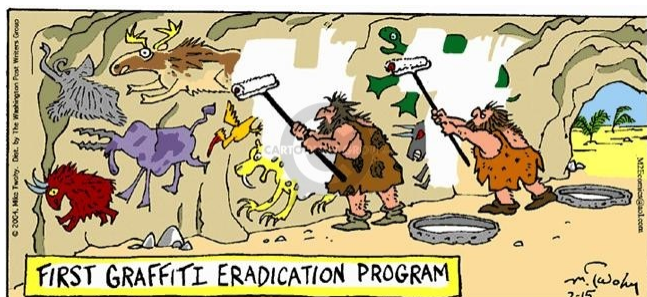
Although not a hard location to do a cave rescue (loads of room, excellent visibility and dry) it was an excellent location to practice various techniques and get more joint working with SECRO & MCRO.



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EXERCISE: EMMER GREEN CHALK MINE, READING

Photo credits: MCRO & Paul Taylor



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REPORTS OF LANDSEARCH CALLOUTS (since September 2021)

Thursday 13th January 2022

Areas of search Cleeve Hill (Cheltenham) and Robinswood Hill (Gloucester)

A big thanks to all GCRG Land Search Team Members who took part in supporting SARA with the two land searches on 13.01.2022. These were at Cleeve Hill in the afternoon and Robinswood Hill Gloucester in the evening. It was a great evening to be out walking. Frosty but clear and for those of us who had the top of the hill to search we were rewarded with a fantastic view out over the Severn Valley. While there the call came in to return to the RV. The missing person had been located. A great result. Thanks to everyone who responded via SARCALL. Another good example of how that system helps with the planning and management of a response.

Paul Taylor Chairman GCRG

28th March 2022

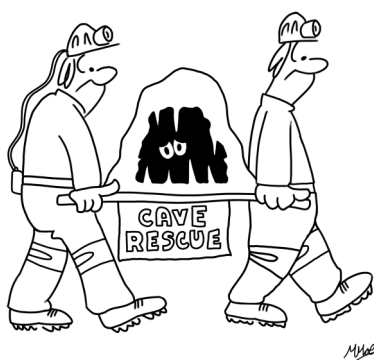
Area of search Highnam area

An initial callout was made to the Wardens at 18:16 from SARA requesting assistance to search for a high risk missing person in the Highnam area & the Land Search team was called out at 18:23 to assist. At 18:37 the team was stood down after the missing person was located.

1 May 2022

Area of search Cirencester area

The GCRG Land Search team was called out to help search for a missing person in the Cirencester area. On 4 May, the police located the person outside the county.



I ♥ WC

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TRAINING: "ROUND-ROBIN" AT THE DEPOT

12th December 2021

Given that many GCRG members had recently been involved in the mammoth OFD rescue only a few weeks earlier, it was decided that this month's training would not be underground but would instead take place at the depot and consist of a number of 'round-robin' sessions.



The training was split up into a number of smaller events which were timed to occur on several occasions throughout the day and the attendees were then divided up into a number of small teams that rotated through the various training sessions throughout the day.

The sessions covered the use of:

'Comms' (Cave Link & France Phone); stretcher-hauling (and loading); rigging and a discussion/debrief about the recent OFD callout. For the stretcher hauling a workshop was held in order to try a new method used by SMWCRT in which a stretcher (once attached to ropes and being hauled) could be swapped from horizontal to vertical and vice versa. This new system involved the use of an extra Petzl Bridle which was used by being tied in and out as needed.



Some experimentation

was made with a potential alternative using a shunt instead of a removable knot. Once all groups had been through

this stand, the overall conclusion was that this SMWCRT system would be too difficult to use by GCRG in a real-life situation as it involved precision knot tying & which could probably not be comfortably without and a great

"The workshops I ran were a chance for small groups to discuss feedback from the big OFD rescue"

pleted successfully much training deal of practice.



Ian Healey reported that

"The workshops I ran were a chance for small groups to discuss feedback from the big OFD rescue and to look at lessons learnt and then project that forward into how GCRG might manage a similar large scale multi team rescue. Some good ideas emerged from members, in particular the idea of 'live scheduling' work shifts using an online tool such as Google Slides. My recent article drew on some of these ideas and developed them further."

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EXERCISE: BIXHEAD STONE MINE

13th March 2022

Report to follow, but a joint practice also involving members of MCRO (Midland Cave Rescue Organisation) & SMWCRT (South & Mid Wales Cave Rescue Team).

Video available from the GCRG Facebook page & also the YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RoCne-y96M>



TRAINING: COMBINED TRAINING WITH MCRO & SARA

27th March 2022

On Sunday 27th March, members of Gloucestershire Cave Rescue Group, together with members from Midlands Cave Rescue Organisation joined in with the Severn Area Rescue Association's Cross Station Land Training Day.

This was the first SARA Cross Station land training that has been held for over 2 years and included members from Cotswolds, Beach-

ley, Wyre Forest and Tewkesbury Stations, together with members from Wiltshire Search and Rescue. The day comprised of a series of sessions looking at how to use different types of stretcher and how stretchers and casualties can be moved in various types of terrain and with a helicopter. The drowned victim detection dog and his handler from Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire, also ran a familiarisation session.

It was a great day's training with lots learned.

Report provided by Rachel Brown

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SIGNIFICANT DONATION FROM THE CDG (CAVE DIVING GROUP)

12th December 2021

At the recent training day at the depot, Andy Ward (National Training Officer of the CDG) on the behalf of the CDG presented the group with a cheque for £1281.

The money was raised by a raffle at the 75th AGM of the CDG (hosted by the Welsh section) and the proceeds were generously split between GCRG and SMWCRT.

The sponsors of the raffle were: FPS Air Compressors Ltd; Scurion; O'Three Ltd; Fourth Element; Kent Tooling Diving Products; D-Luxe Dive Gear; Inglesport; UK Caving; Wookey Hole Caves; Starlessriver; Beaver Sports; Spanset; Warmbac; Wildplaces Publishing, Mark (gonzo) Lumley.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Website

The GCRG website has undergone a revamp, including the ability to donate directly to the group via PayPal and the following tabs/buttons to go to specific areas/subjects:

Home About News Training Membership Fundraising Callout/Safety Gallery Publications



Twitter

GCRG now also has its own account on Twitter, follow the group at

https://twitter.com/GCRG_CaveRescue



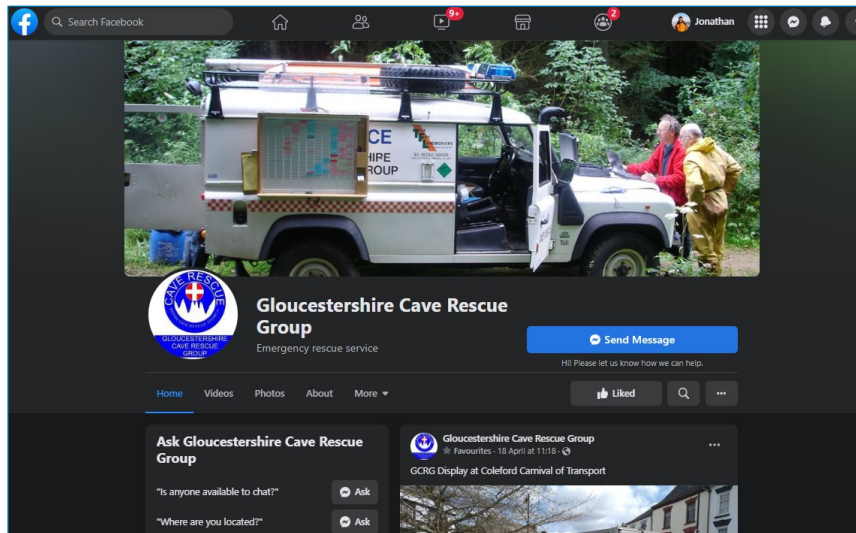
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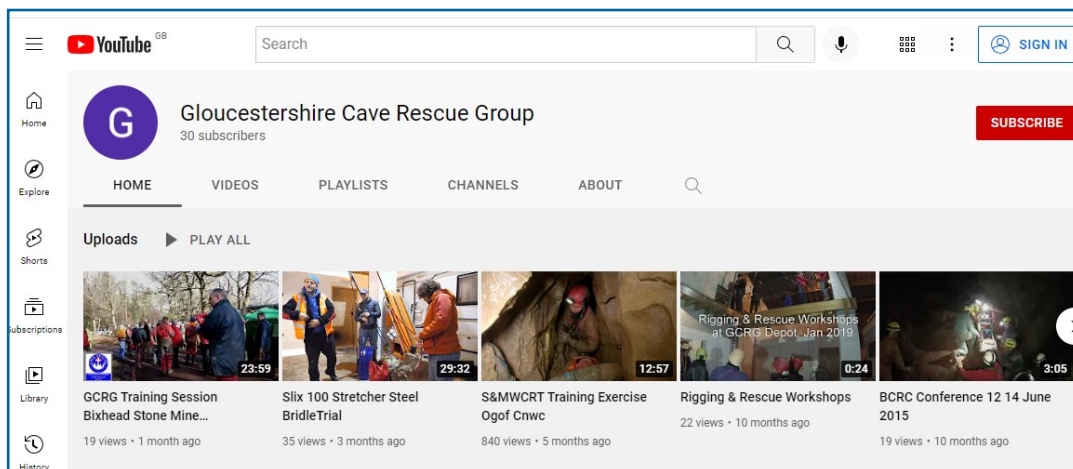
FACEBOOK

GCRG has its own presence on FB

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



See GCRG's own channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbb3v4lcSbxSLyUF5FqlqwA>



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GCRG PUBLICITY

GCRG was represented at the Coleford Carnival of Transport on Monday 18th of April



"It was a good day. Plenty of people came by and chatted. Good PR and flag waving. Plus we sold some calendars. Not many left now which is great news. We can progress forward with the purchase of our last Digital Radio. "

GCRG SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE



March 2022

Following the request for donations in March, Gareth Jones (GCRG Information Officer) and Paul Taylor (Chairman) making the delivery of much needed first aid, rescue equipment and sleeping bags to the Ukrainian Church in Gloucester.

Thanks to everyone from the GCRG who donated items and GCRG First Aid Officer Nicky Bayley who sorted out all of the items from the GCRG depot.

We are only too pleased to be able to make a small contribution to the massive efforts that are being put in by the team at the church . Members from SARA are also collecting items and this is being coordinated by John Dutton and is to be delivered shortly.



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GCRG 2023 CALENDAR

Sales of the calendar have been going extremely well and a great deal of money is being raised for the group.

A bargain @ £10 each, contact Paul Taylor if you want one or more.

