



GLOUCESTERSHIRE CAVE RESCUE GROUP



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2014

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

GCRG Depot – 01594 827999

SARCALL Response Number – 07537 415551



Gloucestershire Cave Rescue Group

SARCALL Information for Team Members

When you receive a SARCALL message sent by a GCRG Warden, you should, ideally, respond by SMS text message to indicate your availability.

If you are unable to reply by SMS text message, please contact the originating warden directly, using the number given in the SARCALL message, or see overleaf.

Send your SMS text message to **07537 415551**

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

xx = time in minutes until you will arrive at meeting point

message = relevant additional information, free text

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

Useful phone numbers

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

Greg Jones	07974 008519	01594 827334
Paul Taylor	07803 539945	01452 505673
Steve Tomalin	07867 772341	01452 883189
David Tuffley	07799 617934	01594 824343
Peter Turier	07462 181899	01452 539199
Colin Vickery	07548 240124	01684 293202

(Version3, May 2014)

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FORTHCOMING 2014 TRAINING EXERCISES

September

Potential exercise with Mendip Cave Rescue in Box (Corsham) stone mine

Saturday 6th December

Potential exercise in Ogof Draenen with S&MWCRT

OTHER DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tues 1st July 2014

SWERA meeting, Hunters Inn, Priddy (see Pete/Paul if interested)

Thurs 10th July 2014

GCRG committee meeting @ the Depot

Sat 19th July 2014

Depot working day & BBQ

24th/25th September 2014

Emergency Services show @ the NEC (BCRC is represented, contact Paul or Pete if you'd like to attend)

19th-21st June 2015

BCRC Conference (Hosted in the Forest of Dean by GCRG & MCRO)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

At the recent AGM the only changes made to the committee were the addition of Rachel Brown and John Holden. Both were voted onto the committee to help out as either Assistant Equipment Officer or Assistant Training Officer.

<p>Chairman</p> <p>Paul W Taylor</p> <p>chairman@gcrg.org.uk</p> <p>01452 505673 (H) 07803 539945 (M)</p>	<p>Secretary</p> <p>Peter Turier</p> <p>secretary@gcrg.org.uk</p> <p>01452 539199 (H) 07462 181899 (M)</p>	<p>Treasurer</p> <p>Liz Maisey</p> <p>treasurer@gcrg.org.uk</p> <p>01666 504647 (H)</p>
<p>Communications Officer</p> <p>Craig Cameron</p> <p>comms@gcrg.org.uk</p> <p>01594 834481 (H) 07802 890153 (M)</p>	<p>Information Officer</p> <p>Gareth Jones</p> <p>info@gcrg.org.uk</p> <p>01452 532014 (H) 07982 455650 (M)</p>	<p>Training Co-ordinator</p> <p>Ian Healey /</p> <p>training@gcrg.org.uk</p> <p>01594 811187 (H) Ian 01594 562444 (W) Ian</p>
<p>Equipment Officer</p> <p>Nicky Bayley /</p> <p>equipment@gcrg.org.uk</p> <p>07790 664278 (M) 01291 445716 (W)</p>	<p>Medical Advisor</p> <p>Andy Harp</p> <p>andy@palmcons.co.uk</p> <p>07501 307391 (M)</p>	
<p>Ordinary Member [Newsletter Editor]</p> <p>Jon Maisey</p> <p>jon.maisey@btinternet.com</p> <p>01666 504647 (H)</p>	<p>Ordinary Member [50th Anniv Publication]</p> <p>Dave Appleing</p> <p>Dappleing@aol.com</p> <p>01242 581385 (H) 01242 669413 (W)</p>	<p>Ordinary Member [Driver records co-ord]</p> <p>Steve Tomalin</p> <p>smtspeleo@virginmedia.com</p> <p>01452 883189 (H) 07867 772341 (M)</p>
<p>Ordinary Member</p> <p>Kevin Brockway</p> <p>ozonekev@btinternet.com</p> <p>01453 511100 (H) 07970 033345 (M)</p>	<p>Ordinary Member</p> <p>Rachel Brown</p> <p>brownrm@btinternet.com</p> <p>01453 511100 (H)</p>	<p>Ordinary Member</p> <p>John Holden</p>

CALLOUT WARDENS

Cheltenham / Tewkesbury / North Cotswolds	Maurice Febry 01242 242160 (H) Colin Vickery 01684 293202 (H) 07548 240124 (M)	Dave Appleing 01242 581385 (H) 07804 300598 (M) 01242 669413 (W) 01242 669348 (W)
Bristol / Chepstow	Kevin Brockway 01453 511100 (H) 07970 033345 (M) 01454 382133 (W) 01454 382100 x2133 (W)	
Forest of Dean	John Berry 01594 822823(H) 07979 791083 (M) Greg Jones 01594 827334 (H) 07974 008519 (M) Dave Tuffley 01594 824343 (H) 07799 617934 (M) 01452 711852 (W)	Andy Clark 01600 716970 (H) 07707 992510 (M) 07411 207149 (M) 01594 811370 (W)
Gloucester	Steve Tomalin 01452 883189 (H) 07867 772341 (M) Pete Turier 01452 539199 (H) 07462 181899 (M) 07789 903921 (W)	Paul Taylor 01452 505673 (H) 07803 539945 (M)

THE CORRECT WAY TO RESPOND TO A SARCALL MESSAGE

SEARCH AND RESCUE CALLOUT SYSTEM - SARCALL

It goes without saying that good communications are vital in a rescue incident; from alerting team members to the initial callout, getting key information about the casualty's condition or kit needed underground, to sharing information between wardens and important situation updates from the emergency services.

This article is going to look at one of the communication tools GCRG uses, SARCALL, and how it is implemented within the Group as the primary way that the Wardens receive incident alerts and pass those on to team members.

BACKGROUND

Before GCRG moved to SARCALL the response of the Team to a callout was predominantly handled by phone calls, some pagers, perhaps some SMS or sometimes just seeing who turned up.

This tied the warden, who started the callout, to a phone and meant that any written record of calls made and responses received was only available to them and consequently, very difficult to communicate the full details of the response to other wardens. Additionally, the callout itself was a slow process - multiple calls might be needed to contact just one person. It might take team members several attempts to contact the warden and let them know their availability, and it was not easy for them to update this, should it change.

However, modern technology and systems meant that a solution was possible – SARCALL. This has primarily been developed in North Wales by John Hulse of Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Organisation, where, following centralisation of the North Wales Police Communications Centre, the 8 Mountain Rescue (MR) teams began to experience callouts to the wrong teams, delayed calls and poor initial information etc. Prompted by the North Wales Police, a joint investigation revealed that many of the problems were caused by the highly variable nature of the teams' callout procedures and the quality of the information they provided to the emergency services. A standard, simple easy to use callout system was needed; even in North Wales, mountain and cave incidents only account for 1 in 500 calls to the emergency services.

After much work SARCALL was launched in August 2009 and has gone from strength to strength. It has effectively become the de facto standard for rescue callout within the UK and Ireland and is now used by 67 SAR Teams. It is also used by 14 partner services such as the Police, Fire and Rescue, Ambulance, NHS emergency departments and even the RAF Search and Rescue Forces to callout and work with the volunteer teams.

SARCALL is a secure, robust and real time web based system providing:

- A simple front end for the emergency services to create and send a callout message to Wardens
- Tools such as maps and a gazetteer of sites and features ensure the right team is called
- Callout alerts are sent en masse targeting both mobile and home numbers (and soon emails too)
- All Wardens have a log on and can connect and see the latest information
- Wardens can send messages to specific phone numbers or predefined groups within the team e.g. Full Team, Land Search Team, Coal Mines Dig Out Team
- Any message sent is recorded on the system and may be viewed in real time
- Team members respond via SMS to the callout message building a dynamic picture of available personnel
- A summary of available personnel can be obtained by Wardens via an SMS request
- Incident logs can be created and maintained throughout the callout by any Warden

- Wardens/Team Leaders of neighbouring teams, which use the system, can be alerted if needed
- GCRG is responsible for maintaining and updating its own information on the system
- Additional documents, such as Otter Hole sump times, can be stored on the system for easy reference

SARCALL WITHIN GCRG

SARCALL alerts are sent to both home and mobile phone numbers (and soon emails too). They are typically sent within 10 seconds of the message being created on SARCALL – a massive time saving over manual phone calls.

All callout SMS text messages will be identified as coming from GCRGSARCALL and will give brief details of the incident, what you should do and who the originating Warden is.

KEEPING INFORMATION UP TO DATE:

Obviously, it is vital that GCRG has up to date phone information for all members. Additionally, within SARCALL there is the ability to mark members as temporarily unavailable and thus stop callout texts being sent to them.

Therefore, if your phone numbers or availability to be called out changes for any reason please let Gareth Jones (SARCALL Team Admin) know via email: info@gcrg.org.uk

SMS TO HOME PHONES

For land line numbers an automatic text to voice translation is applied and a spoken version of the SMS message should be received on home phones. It is known that the voice translation is not perfect and there is the potential for such messages to be difficult to understand. If such a message is received, which you think may be from GCRG, but cannot be understood, please check your mobile phone or contact a warden.

There is also a default blackout period set for texts to home phone numbers. This means that there is a period during which SMS messages are not forwarded to the home number. Instead they are stored up and only delivered when the blackout period ends. This period is approximately 10pm to 8am. Team members are asked to ensure that there isn't a blackout period for texts set on their home number by initially calling the BT SMS text control line, 0800 587 5252 and removing any curfew period - this service is generally controlled via BT irrespective of your home phone supplier. If by default your phone does not forward its own number when dialling (no caller line id) you will need to ensure this is sent when removing the curfew by entering the appropriate code before dialling the BT SMS text control.

The ability of texts to be received via your home phone line and the removal of the blackout period can be simply checked by sending a text from any mobile phone to your home number. (The text which comes through may give an additional number to ring to change the blackout period depending upon your phone line supplier).

This blackout is easy to change and is usually updated within 20 minutes, thus in the event of a callout it can be reset before leaving home to avoid further texts disturbing other residents. It can then be removed again upon your return.

REPLYING TO THE CALLOUT SMS ALERT

The automated SMS response system is the preferred way for members to respond as it effectively frees up the warden's phone line and should also reduce the frustration of team members trying to get through to them when there might be 40 people all calling the same number. SMS Responses are also visible to all wardens giving them a dynamic picture of the total and individual team member's availability, as well as the actions that they are taking.

When using the automated SMS response system 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 may result in them being ignored. Similarly, the correct format of message must be used; incorrectly formatted messages will also be ignored. This system is fully automated and the wardens will only see "valid" messages. No feedback on the success or failure of a response text is sent to team members.

Response SMS text messages **must be sent to 07537 415551** (store this in your phone contacts under "SARCALL Response"). This is NOT the number from which the SARCALL alert text is received and in fact replying to the originating number will fail. The response number is a Vodafone number and should be included in any call package you may have on your phone. For PAYG users it will cost the same as any other standard rate SMS message.

The format of your reply MUST adhere to the following rules or it will be ignored by the SARCALL system.

The response message consists of 3 sections each separated by a space; the first is a keyword to identify the text as a SARCALL response, the second an availability code and time and the third a free text message. You may use upper or lower case when replying.

The message MUST start with the keyword **SAR** followed by a space.

Availability codes are **A**, **L** or **N**, where A= Available immediately, L= Limited availability, and N=Not available.

a. If you are replying that you are available immediately then the code **A** should be followed directly (no spaces) by the number of minutes you estimate that it will take you to get to the location (this might be the Depot, incident site or a rendezvous point). This value may be between 0 and 99 only at present.

b. If you are replying that your availability is limited (e.g. you will be available only after work, only until a specific time or when a partner returns) then the code **L** should be followed immediately (no spaces) by the number of minutes you estimate that it will take you to get to the location when you are available. Again this may only be in the range 0 to 99 at present.

c. If you are replying that you are unavailable, code **N**, then no time is required.

The availability code and time, if applicable, should be followed by a space after which you may add any additional information (free text) to clarify your availability and/or your intended actions. Please use the message area of the reply wisely (no swearing, jokes or comments on the location or casualty etc.). Remember, these texts may be handed over to any post incident investigation.

If people are picking up other members of the team or particular equipment en route then mentioning this in the message area of the text is a good idea.

Message Examples:

SAR A60 Going direct to RV point.
SAR A70 On way home to collect caving kit. Will pick up Minnie Columns on way to RV point.
SAR A70 Sharing transport with Ollie Beau.
SAR L30 Need to be home by 1am, can man depot until then.
SAR L90 Partner on way home. Will go direct to RV point, when they arrive.
SAR N Looking after children. Will update if I can arrange cover.
SAR N Working away in Derbyshire.

YOU ARE NOT AVAILABLE

It is really important to always try and reply promptly to callout alerts. Even if you are not available, please send a response SMS or phone the originating warden. This not only confirms that you are unavailable this time and that no one needs to contact you further but also, really importantly, that the alert reached you.

NO MOBILE SIGNAL AT HOME

Mobile coverage is far from 100% in certain areas so if members are unable to reply via SMS please contact the originating warden directly, using the number given in the SARCALL SMS message or from the list on the SARCALL aide memoire (latest version at the end of this article for you to print and keep).

THINGS CHANGE AFTER YOUR INITIAL RESPONSE

If circumstances change after you have sent an initial response then you can send further, appropriately formatted, SMS messages to update your status and actions at any time. However please be aware that the wardens will only be able to see the latest SMS message from each team member.

THE TEAM IS PLACED ON STANDBY

If you receive a message alerting you that the team is being placed on standby please reply as above. Use the appropriate letter to indicate your availability; A if available, L if only available before or after a particular time, N if not available. For code letters A and L the time element should be how long it will take you to collect appropriate gear and get to the rendezvous point once you are asked to mobilise - after all at this time Wardens will not know if or when anyone will actually need to be deployed.

HOW WILL TEAM MEMBERS BE CONTACTED AFTER THE INITIAL CALLOUT ALERT HAS BEEN SENT

This may be by a direct phone call but it could also be via a further SMS text; perhaps a general one to the whole team asking those who indicated they were available to go direct to a rendezvous point or via single texts to individual members detailing specific actions for them.

NOTHING SEEMS TO BE HAPPENING

If you have replied via SMS that you are available but have heard nothing back within a reasonable time carefully double check your reply; was it formatted correctly and sent to the correct response number? If everything seems right then contact a warden directly.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE WARDENS

Below is a representation of what the response page on SARCALL looks like as team members reply. It automatically updates every few seconds. Team member responses are sorted by availability then date and time of response.

Response Summary in the previous 24 Hours

	Full Availability Members -	3
	Limited Availability Members -	2
	Non Available members -	2

Team Member Response Details in the Previous 24 Hours

Num.	Member Name	ETA/State	Message	Date and Time of Response
1	Joy Ford	ETA =60	Going direct to RV point.	21:49:12 hrs. On 12/05/14
2	Ollie Beau	ETA =70	On way home to collect caving kit. Will pick up Minnie Columns on way to RV point.	21:49:45 hrs. On 12/05/14
3	Minnie Columns	ETA =70	Sharing transport with Ollie Beau.	21:54:08 hrs. On 12/05/14
4	Di Tracing	ETA =30	Need to be home by 1am, can man depot until then.	21:48:11 hrs. On 12/05/14
5	Arthur King	ETA = 90	Partner on way home. Will go direct to RV point, when they arrive.	21:49:48 hrs. On 12/05/14
6	Brook Slade	Not Available	Looking after children. Will update if I can arrange cover.	21:53:17 hrs. On 12/05/14
7	Shaun Cliff	Not Available	Working away in Derbyshire.	21:56:54 hrs. On 12/05/14

YOUR CUT OUT AND KEEP HANDY AIDE MEMOIRE TO SARCALL



Gloucestershire Cave Rescue Group

SARCALL Information for Team Members

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(Versionv3, May 2014)

TRAINING

At the May AGM, Ian (Training Coordinator) made the following important point regarding training & commitment.

Over the last year we have run training days at the following venues:

June 13: Wigpool
 Sept 13: Wetsink
 Dec 13: Noxon Park
 Mar 14: Miss Graces Lane

These are important and relatively large scale sites in the Forest and these practices have raised our familiarity with these venues. They are venues that need returning to over a maximum of a two to three year cycle in order to maintain and develop that familiarity. However, we don't just use training days to gain familiarity with particular cave/mine systems, we have also used these events to develop our expertise in particular areas of cave rescue.

Wigpool gave us an opportunity to work with Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, try out the new France Phones and develop search skills and radio communication skills. For Wetsink we visited Zuree Aven for a change, which provided useful practice in finding natural anchors as well as using stemples.

A new command and control base and the use of the France Phones again were useful things to learn more about. An important feature of the Noxon Park day was it finishing in the dark allowing us to consider and problem solve issues that this could cause in this complex area. Working together in small sub teams, and the coordinating of this, were also key features. MGL focussed on an awkward stretcher rescue in a rift involving a lower and a haul as well as a tight carry at the bottom of the rift. We also did further testing of the Cave Link radios for team members to see.

The variety of skills and techniques practiced at these varying venues has improved our readiness to deal with a real incident, which is of course the purpose of these training days. Even the most experienced cavers and cave rescuers have learnt much from these training days. If you missed just one of these events you will have less knowledge and skills to offer the team. If you missed all four your usefulness as a team member is greatly diminished. A point is reached where whatever your past experience and even current personal caving skill level, if you don't have the up to date knowledge and practice of current rescue methods and equipment then you can't operate effectively as part of a team in the event of a real incident.

It is therefore disappointing that out of a GCRG membership of over 100 people that on the last 4 training days only about a third of members have attended. Numbers have been well down on the 56 we managed at Clearwell Caves in March 2013 and instead have averaged the high 20's. Looking through the names registered for each of the past year's training events it is also apparent that many of them are the same faces. What about the rest of you?! On all the training days in the last 12 months we have had to curtail plans due to a shortfall in hoped for numbers. We have generally planned events to allow for around 40 team members to attend and be kept active and engaged.

It would be good to get back up to this target. We only have 4 practices a year, they are usually always the first Sunday of the months of March, June, Sept and Dec and they are advertised well in advance. I personally think that all members should attend an absolute minimum of 2, preferably 3 and hopefully 4 a year. All are designed to be valuable and worthwhile learning experiences and are usually fun and sociable too.

With a demanding fulltime job and a family of 3 young boys, I find it more difficult to get the time to go caving these days, but I do make the effort to be involved in cave rescue training. I partly see GCRG as a self-help club. I hope not, but one day it could be me that needs rescuing and if so I want the rest of you to be good at doing it! So please think likewise and make the effort to maintain and develop your skills at the four annual training days. For the next date (Sun 1st June) we will be running a 'round robin' of workshops at the Dean Field Studies Centre. Sessions will include utilising the climbing tower for vertical scenarios and the Tunnel System to practice confined space stretcher loading and carrying amongst other things. More details to follow.

I have attempted to seek, collate and distribute feedback from our training days so that we can capture the learning points, issues arising and action plan improvements both for running future training as well as for dealing with real rescues.

Thank you for your continued involvement in this process. Please also proactively consider what your training needs are let me know if there are any aspects of cave rescue you believe we should focus on more.

For example I am presently trying to come up with a fifth workshop at the next training day and would welcome ideas.

Ian Healey (GCRG Training Coordinator)

INCIDENTS INVOLVING GCRG

The purpose of this log is to inform the GCRG members of all incidents that the group has been involved with over the last few months.

This will enable GCRG members (who are not Wardens or hold a position on the Committee) to have a better understanding of all of the incidents which have required some form of GCRG involvement & which may or may not have progressed into a full standby notice or callout.

Although these are brief reports, it is plain to see that the SARCALL system has developed into a very significant and extremely efficient part of the GCRG response to incidents. It is certainly making the job of Wardens much easier.

It is hoped that in future, all callouts of any type that involves GCRG will be recorded here for the membership to see and to act as a an easily viewed record of the group's activities.

5th May 2014

Otter Hole

Overdue Party

Sump closed: 09:00; Sump Opened: 15:15; Border Caving Club; Leader: Nicky Bailey

Paul Taylor was at the Otter Hole bath/wash-off point to record the caving party when they came out and washed off. On the Sunday evening Paul had spoken to Nicky on the phone and a provisional time of 16:30 at the bath had been agreed. When this time came and went there were not any immediate concerns but as time went on and 19:15 was reached and there was still not any sign of the group (now four hours into the "open sump cycle" Paul started to become a little concerned.

At 19:21 he phoned GCRG warden Kevin Brockway (mobile) and left a message. Kevin phoned back at 19:23. Paul explained the situation and his level of concern. It was agreed that Paul would pack his camera equipment away at 20:00 and return to the car park and the situation would be reviewed. It was by this time raining quite steadily. At 20:20 Paul phoned Kevin and in light of the continuing no show of the party, it was decided to send out a SARCALL message to the GCRG wardens advising them of the situation. Paul would head down to the cave entrance to set up the in-cave phone. Paul reached the cave at approximately 21:00. While opening up the cave gate he heard a caver approaching. This turned out to be Nicky who reported that the party were all ok but were travelling very slowly. She had left them at Sandy Chamber so that she could move on ahead and exit sooner as she had a call-out set up with Andy Harp for 22:00.

The sump had been passed at 19:00. Paul contacted Kevin at 21:07 to advise him of the updated situation and to say that he would contact him again when all of the remainder of the party were out of the cave (this call was made at 21:58). A further call was made at 22:46 to confirm that everybody was now back at the car park.

Paul Taylor (GCRG Chairman)

After Paul rang to say put out a call out to wardens advising them of the situation I sent the SARCALL out. I then rang Gloucester Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) and gave them the details, they asked me if we needed their assistance. I informed them that we did not but I did need an incident log number to cover insurance for Paul and GCRG if we needed to deploy. GFRS informed me that it was in South Wales (Fire & Rescue Service) territory and they would contact them.

A few minutes later South Wales FRS rang me as the incident had been put over to them, I gave them the details. Again they asked if we need their assistance. I said that if we did I would contact them again. They gave me their incident log number and their phone number. A few minutes later GFRS rang me and gave me their incident log number and asked me to keep them updated. A few minutes later Gwent police rang to ask me about the incident that had been reported to them from Gwent FRS. I again explained what had happened and our anticipated plan. they also asked if we needed their assistance to which I said not at present.

I did not contact any of the above until I had been updated by Paul and that all were at the car park, I waited in case anyone was too fatigued to make it up the hill and we would have deployed some assistance. I rang both GFRS and South Wales FRS to inform them that the incident was stood down and all persons were safe. South Wales FRS contacted Gwent police to inform them.

Conclusion

It is the first time I have had to send a real call-out and call GFRS for an incident log. I did not have their number and I have never read the procedure either. I got the information from the relevant pages on our SARCALL documents section - very easy to find, understand and follow. This took a few minutes which I was happy with. Steve logged on and updated the log as such which was very helpful for me. Pete texted me to remind me of the importance of the incident log number from GFRS which was also good as I may have forgotten, as it is I had already done this. Better to check than anticipate it had been done.

A while later Dave responded and said he was following on SARCALL, again this was valuable to know as he could see the updates as I submitted them so everybody had all the necessary information.

After I had updated the log that all were out, I was not going to close the incident until all were at the car park. Steve and Dave informed me via the SARCALL log that they were logging off. Again, this was valuable information for me to know as they knew all were safe barring the walk up to the cars.

I was though disappointed that there were so few responses from Wardens, there may be a valid reason, I feel this should be followed up. I would also welcome feedback about how I wrote and updated the logs.

Was there enough relevant information?

If someone else had taken over would they have been able to understand the incident details? Enabling them to carry on logging and coordinating the incident

I asked Paul to close the incident log down and this was completed on the Tuesday morning. However before this was completed, Paul added a copy of the SMS responses to the incident log by uploading a copy. To do this the SMS response file was emailed to himself. He then copied the contents of the email and pasted it into a word document, saved this and then uploaded this file to the log. It was done this way as the saved email would not upload to the log. The incident log was then closed.

It is fair to say that this incident really only came about because Paul was on site at the time. However Nicky's exit at 21:00 (and without her phone at the entrance) would have been cutting it fine for her call-out of 22:00.

This was a good learning curve for all concerned and some very useful information gained. The inclusion of the SMS responses is a very valuable addition to the records and one that should be incorporated into the procedures.

Good use of the SARCALL system by all involved made the job so much easier.

Kevin Brockway (GCRG Warden)

FUNDRAISING

A very easy way to raise funds for GCRG

A new way to raise funds for the group has been identified & like "Gift Aid" is very easy to use and creates income for GCRG by simply shopping online.

"Easyfundraising" is a method of raising funds for the group from online shopping; there is no catch.

Donations are made by the retailer when an order is placed with them and with almost 3000 retailers registered including many of the well-known high street names ie Screwfix, Argos, Staples etc", there is plenty to choose from.

What do you have to do?

- 1 - Go to the website www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- 2 - Click on '**Find a cause**' and select the cause you wish to support (just search for "Cave Rescue" and you'll find GCRG).
- 3 - **Fill out** the quick form to register your details.
- 4 - Find the retailer you want to shop with.
- 5 - Click to visit the retailer, then shop as you normally would.
- 6 - Your donation will be shown in your easyfundraising account within 30 days.

As of the May AGM, GCRG members had raised in the region of £180 using this method All money for free and the more we buy the more GCRG gets a percentage.

GCRG MERCHANDISE

GCRG Mugs

Nicky has been making more of the excellent GCRG mugs & will make more if required at £10 each ... contact Nicky (via equipment@gcrg.org.uk) to place your order.



GCRG badges

The group has had a quantity of these enamel badges made up for sale to the members (and supporters) at a price of £3 each and with all profits going back to GCRG.

To show your support to the group & fly the flag these can be purchased at any GCRG training event or contact Paul Taylor or Kev Brockway.



BCRC badges

Produced by the same company who supplied the GCRG Badges we now have an additional badge for you to add to your collection.

Like the GCRG badges they are circular but without the lower rectangle containing the GCRG wording & they are also £3.00 each. By purchasing one you are not only helping the BCRC but also raising some funds for the GCRG. The BCRC has purchased them and passed them onto teams at almost cost price so that they can make some much needed funds.

Contact Kev Brockway or Paul Taylor.

2015 – 50th ANNIVERSARY OF GCRG

GCRG was officially formed in May 1965 and in 2015 the group will be organising some form of official celebration (probably in collaboration with the BCRC conference due to be held in the Forest of Dean in 2015) and a publication will be produced to go with it.

If you have any ideas or suggestions how the group ought to celebrate this milestone anniversary, then please contact any of the committee members.

In regard to the publication, Dave Appleing is collating information (photos/newspaper cuttings/anecdotes etc) for the official publication & would be grateful for anything that can be sent his way There's only 12 months to go & before we know it, it will be May 2015.

As an example of the sort of info/photos we need; does anyone have any photos (or a newspaper cutting) of the GCRG exercise held in Cheltenham (12th Jan 1992) in the new sewer system that was being laid under the various roads?