

Scottish Mountain Rescue

General Meeting

Tuesday 30th March 2021

Online Zoom Meeting



Officers' Reports

Chair

Whilst we definitely haven't been back to normal in the period since the last AGM and nor are we looking like the next few months will be normal, it still feels an appropriate time to return to reporting against the 5-year plan with the intention of reviewing it for the AGM in the Autumn. Much of the reporting is in the separate officer and staff reports so my report is by no means complete without referring to all the other reports.

Before anything else I would like to publicly thank Elsie, Viv and Yas again for all the work they have put in and the way they have managed the inevitable disruptions over the last 6 months. We would not have come through this period anywhere near as well as we have without them. I'd also like to thank the rest of the executive and everyone outside of the executive from all the different teams for their support and willingness to find time to help when approached.

Representation

All UKSAR meetings have gone online which from a Scottish perspective has made them easier to attend and attendance has been spread around various members of the executive and recently Yas has taken over representation at some of the groups. The quality of guidance around COVID protocols and our ability to get some initial movement on having MR considered within the vaccination programme have highlighted some of the strengths and influence of these groups.

Cross party groups at Holyrood are still on hold but the relevant MSP's have not forgotten and are awaiting a suitable time to develop these.

Lots of work has gone on within the Mountain Safety group (MSG) of organisations to ensure we all deliver a common message around safety in the hills and reach as many hill goers as possible. It is also a significant advantage to have people from PS and SG around the table when trying to tease out the latest guidance and get any clarification. Thinkwinter has also significantly increased its reach and the number of organisations supporting it this winter.

Guidance to the public seems to be expected of us judging by the number of queries we get if we don't put anything out so we are trying to stick to a consistent format:

- outline of restrictions using official wording as much as possible, to remove any interpretation
- a reminder that we are here if needed but rescues are more difficult
- a request to try and stay extra safe
- direction to resources on safety.

Training

Some small amount of training has been possible on a national level but we are hopeful that we can return to a fuller training programme this next year, although it will in all likelihood need to be weighted a little more towards later in the year than usual.

Resources

Many charities have been facing acute financial hardship over the last year with significant loss in funding and it is in no small thanks to Elsie's efforts, along with the social media support from Yas and Viv, that we have been relatively lightly impacted over this year. We have been aware that there was a risk that the current pandemic could place some teams in financial difficulty and have been keen to try and return to matching the SG distribution if we possibly could. So I'm delighted that we will be able to match fund the SG grant again this spring and, should some legacies come in at the level we anticipate, we should also soon be able to confirm match funding in spring 2022. If any team is in immediate financial duress do please make contact.

Wellbeing

The work around wellbeing, the benevolent fund and wrap-around insurance provision all seem to have been put in place just in time for this year and there have been several occasions where, whether they have been called upon or not, it has been a comfort to know they have been there. I'm delighted teams got access to the vaccination programme at a relatively early stage should they decide it was appropriate to take up. The aim was not to persuade anyone that we were deserving of the vaccine at an early stage, we don't have that overview, but to remind those taking the decisions that we exist and also highlight what we do. Thanks to Alastair Glennie and several other medics from a range of teams for their efforts to get the information in, along with our main contacts in SG who ensured the information was passed on to those taking the decisions.

Looking Forward

We are hoping to keep the load on teams relatively light over the summer with relatively little of anything new as it looks like it is going to another bumper year for rescues which likely to take most of our time and energy. There are, however, several items on the horizon to discuss and they are on the agenda for the meeting.

Many thanks again for everyone's support.

Damon Powell

chair@scottishmountainrescue.org

Vice Chair

Like my fellow office bearers, I would like to start my report by acknowledging the tremendous effort and flexibility that the SMR staff, Yas, Elsie and Viv have put in over the last 6 months, it has been a challenging time for all of us but their commitment to keeping things going is excellent – thank-you.

In addition, the SMR executive and team members drafted in to assist us have shown a fantastic attitude and moved the organisation forward in a positive way – working together personified for the benefit of all the teams.

I have been busy with my role representing SMR on many of the Scottish resilience forums and, although mostly done by Zoom, attendance at these meetings is still very important to have our voice heard at the highest level. We continue the battle – sorry essential dialogue with our partner emergency services to ensure smooth call out procedures for the benefit of casualties and later this month will be part of the review of the Community Asset Register (CAR).

In addition to this I have been busy with media communications and answering the many calls for comments, interviews, etc. – luckily most are for radio...!! I have been striving to get a consistent and

focused message across to the public and have had a number of discussions with Team members prior to press / media requests to achieve this consistency of message. In an era of fast social media having a consistent message and an awareness of press 'procedures' is very important. And who can forget our Thinkwinter social media video which was produced.....oh, most of you!!!!

Thanks again to Yas for keeping our social media platforms up to date and sharing team posts.

I was lucky to attend one of the Cas Care courses and can confirm that this was run Covid safe and to a very high standard, with many improvements – great work from the medical folks and this all augers well for when training can re-commence.

Hopefully with transmission rates dropping we will soon return to something nearer normal soon, however I fear that will produce a busy year for rescues and I am sure teams will be preparing for that.

There are a number of items that we will be discussing to move the organisation forward and these are included in the agenda, however, I would like to make teams aware that a number of the exec are due to step down in the next 12 – 18 months and we actually need folks to be discussing our replacements now to allow an efficient and streamlined change over.....we know there are lots of good folks out there and we now have an organisation that is running well with good support and input from all the member teams – it consumes some time for exec members but it is now a genuine privilege and pleasure to serve the teams and make a difference for the better (as you all know it didn't start out much fun but that is all behind us 😊)

Thanks for everyone's support and encouragement

Kev Mitchell

vicechair@scottishmountainrescue.org

Secretary

Staffing

In writing this report I do so from the premise of gratitude towards the staff team we have at SMR. Our three dedicated employees have shown commitment and dedication during what is one of the toughest periods we have known. They have done so pulling together as a team to work hard for the benefit of our members.

I ask you to be considerate of the current pandemic situation and in particular remember that if you are needing an urgent response to something, then there is likely many others also seeking such a response. Therefore, I am asking you to remember that if you don't get a response immediately our staff team are doing their best.

Benevolent Fund

Dave Mills has stepped down from the secretariat role, consequently we are seeking additional people to get involved. I thank those who have got in touch and look forward to having discussions and additional support for this.

Fundraising

Our fundraising arm continues to grow, and unlike many other charities we are seeing sustainability. All I can say is well done Elsie, you have really done a magnificent job.

Infrastructure and Development

Yasmin, has continued to keep the organisation going during the Pandemic working closely with Mario in respect of the SAS situation, Alastair in respect of medical and making sure my job as secretary isn't too onerous. I particularly pay credit to her perseverance in dealing with the challenges of external agencies to ensure the administration burden on teams remain manageable. Well done Yas.

Administration

In the last year we have been lucky to have Viv helping with the admin centrally. We are definitely grateful for her help in keeping the exec organised and inline. Working with Yas and Elsie the organisation is a mean admin machine. Well done Viv.

Final remarks

It has been a tough year and I make no apologies for this report to focus on our staff team. They deserve thanks from us all for the work they do on your behalf and that of the exec. As we move to the next stage of the pandemic, please remember that we all have experienced this differently so be kind to our Staff team.

In closing, I am delighted to see that Tayside are keen to re-join SMR. I am confident they will bring huge assets and knowledge to us and we are definitely stronger with them in our community.

Alastair Rose

secretary@scottishmountainrescue.org

Training Officer

Despite the challenges this year is bringing us, I am pleased to report that we have progressed through adaptation. I want to thank the Cas Care team for the, albeit, temporary delivery of some Cas care courses at the back end of last year and for the numerous folk who have hosted live VC talks, Facebook live sessions and the like. The situation has certainly made us think about how to solve problems and the results have thrown up solutions that could well be with us for the future. Our Wellbeing group have successfully managed to turn around the F2F to virtual pretty quickly and have hosted a number of highly successful sessions.

I want to thank everyone in each of the working groups who have been working on trying to organise training events only for them to be cancelled. Despite this real frustration, they remain buoyant and keen to look forward to next year (don't we all). We have introduced a clearer structure to training and made the role of each working group more consistent. Over the last two months we have managed to create a digital training calendar that will go on the SMR website, with links to training courses. At the moment the working groups are identifying training events for the next twelve months. We hope that many will then become permanent annual fixtures. Once National regulations ease then training will begin!

Finally, can I thank Viv and Yas, they are pure gold. Without them the wheel would never turn.

Donald MacRae

trainingofficer@scottishmountainrescue.org

Medical Officer

Thanks to the covid pandemic, very little has changed from my seat and safe to say this has been the busiest year of my entire working career. Many of the guidance papers and protocols are months old but we have no new evidence or information to make changes. We need to wait for mass vaccination to show its effects before we can relax the guidance.

Casualty care course and exams: will resume when training is allowed from government guidelines but there are many team members to get through with a small instructing team so patience will be required!

Equipment/stretchers servicing: no change.

Drugs: a new requesting form is being designed for medical officers to try and reduce time it takes for me to place orders.

Medical group: My thanks again to this small group of committed volunteers who are also juggling a very busy work life with their own team and families.

Stakeholder meetings: as all have moved to virtual it has meant I am able to attend more and these have been very useful for SMR to share ideas, get support and influence guidance.

Alastair Glennie

medicalofficer@scottishmountainrescue.org

Radio Officer

The working group have progressed a number of tasks mentioned at the AGM last year.

The distribution of the Mic covers is well on its way. The Mic covers are hand made by a Kendal based firm, Aiguille Alpine and are being sent out to us in batches of 100 so please be patient. We are over half way through the process. Thanks to the help from Yas we will be getting them out to the teams as soon as possible. You should all have covers by this summer, ready for next winter.

The handheld radio mics PTT buttons are being modified to make them less sensitive, this will take a little longer than the covers.

The problem is logistical and relies on the teams exchanging the mics at their base, this has been slow, mainly because of Covid-19 travel restrictions. The Radio officers will be contacted well in advance to make them aware of the process and give them time to organize the exchange within the team.

As of 18th May 2021 we will have to comply with the conditions proposed by OFCOM regarding EMF levels transmitted from radios that transmit at power levels above 10 Watts. Each team Radio Officer will be contacted to be instructed on how to comply.

The South of Scotland Network is progressing well with 13 repeaters connected to the system but there is still development required to confirm its robustness. Two teams have used it on live incidents with great success.

Thanks again to the working group, Radio Officers and others who are involved in helping with maintaining the radios.

Bill Glennie

radioofficers@scottishmountainrescue.org

Equipment Officer

Hopefully teams who received their new stretchers have had the chance to get them into service and remove an old Mk6 from frontline use. We intend to continue replacing any non-Lyon Mk6 stretchers as funding allows.

I've been chasing Lyon for info on their new headguard, which they've designed and put through a stringent approval system to be used on the Mk6. I know teams who have been issued the new Mk6 stretchers will be keen to get a headguard and perhaps contacting Lyon individually will help them understand the demand and move things on faster.

One team who were due to be issued a Titan stretcher as part of the Scottish Government grant indicated they would prefer a Lyon Mk6 but this was not able to be changed on the order. If any teams who were issued a Mk6 wish to swap this for a Titan then please contact me.

I've been looking at the potential for an online PPE inspection course, as several teams have highlighted a need for training. Unfortunately, our providers stated that due to the practical element, this would not be possible. An SMR course will run when restrictions allow, though if there is an urgent need, Lyon were running courses at their facility. It's possible that this could open up before SMR training does and could be booked directly.

Jamie Grieg

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Statistician

Annual stats report

Recent work of statistics has largely been focused on preparation of the annual statistical report. As ever, we would like to thank the team statisticians for getting their data entered onto the system in a timely fashion. This really makes the job easier, as it is not possible to carry out all the initial checks and data processing until the records on the database are complete.

Work this year has used much of the same computer code as previous years, but the process has been reorganised and refined to allow more opportunities to share data checking efforts, improve repeatability, and hopefully increase efficiency in future years' efforts. Some additional processing tasks have been added which make the calculation of things like number of helicopter activations and the number/nature of multi-team callouts to be described more accurately.

A minor but key improvement in the database entry last year was the addition of a mandatory "activity" field applying to the overall incident (previously this was only present for each casualty, and casualty data are not always entered. 2020 was the first year for which this was filled in for all incidents, which made calculation of activity and mountaineering/non-mountaineering splits orders of magnitude easier!

Stats database

There have been a few requests through the year for teams to update their incident records as close as possible to the current date. This information has been instrumental in allowing Exec and the Office to report the current situation to government and media on numerous occasions in the past

months. If people feel able to keep things up to date going forward, it would be most appreciated if you can! In any case, my feeling from entering my own team's incidents is that the task is much less onerous when carried out soon after each incident.

The mapping provision on the data base page is likely to change slightly this summer due to Ordnance Survey's removal of the existing service used. Teams overwhelmingly supported keeping a clickable map, so this will be retained, but the exact mapping used may change slightly (you can still just enter a grid reference of course).

Going through the stats this year suggested a few possible additions of incident factors etc for selection; hopefully these will be added soon.

Other items

We had a conversation with someone interested in helping out on SMR stats work. Andy and I have been thinking about the best way to integrate additional assistance into the stats work, and the alterations to the annual report workflow have been done with this in mind. For now, the person who contacted us has offered to provide some input on presentation of data within the annual stats report.

We have been contacted by someone from the University of the Highlands and Islands who is interested in looking at the impacts of COVID/lockdown/etc on callouts. We have also approached Scottish Mountaineer magazine in relation to potentially writing an article for them looking at the oddity that was 2020.

Tom Adams & Andy Morgan

statistician@scottishmountainrescue.org & statssupport@scottishmountainrescue.org

Wellbeing Officer

Key points from March 20 to March 21:

Summary: I have grouped the report under headings of training, support, family booklet and external links. Although lockdown has meant that no face-to-face training has been possible since March '20 we have tried to provide some options via zoom. If you have any questions on any of the points below then please email me. I would like to thank Yas and Viv for their support behind the scenes. Their input over the year to help with the team member internet pages, setting up zoom meetings, putting together survey, administering the training sessions via Eventbrite and zoom has been amazing – THANK YOU! Also a big thank you to all those who are busy supporting wellbeing in their teams – that is so important, THANK YOU. And to those who help to deliver sessions and join the meetings to share ideas – THANK YOU – your inputs are really valuable.

Wellbeing Training:

- Over the weekend 6-8th March 2020 we ran two Mental Health First Aid courses for team members (and family members) from across Scotland concurrently at the Police College. This was the formal **Scottish Mental Health First Aid (SMHFA)** courses delivered by accredited instructors (one a member of Galloway MRT and the other with Police Scotland) and supported by myself and Andy Elwood. 24 individuals completed the two-day course.
- During early lockdown we arranged for **CRUSE Scotland** to pilot a zoom training session on bereavement awareness. This was attended by 12 members and was blended mix of 2 hours on zoom followed by a set of online modules.

- We circulated a short survey of members in January 2021 to gauge interest in short (3hr) sessions on **Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Awareness** and received 28 notes of interest. On the back of the notes of interest, we have organised three events to run via Zoom through March/ early April '21. This is a course put together and approved by Public Health Scotland/NHS Education Scotland and delivered in-house.
- In February '21, the refreshed **Volunteer Responder** pages were launched on the Lifelines Scotland site (main home page: <https://www.lifelines.scot/>). There is a Staying Well on-line training module there as well as many videos which can be used to help develop knowledge and understanding. Lifelines Scotland will be starting a series of training events later this spring.
- The survey, noted above, was also a useful check on what type of training was of interest – with staying well, peer support, Mental Health First Aid, and suicide prevention awareness all of interest.
- Also, in March '21 a number of members met (via Zoom) with an organisation called Stand Easy which has received funding to help those in Emergency Responder organisation. They use the development of stories and drama/film to help support wellbeing and recover – helping to build and recharge resilience. We plan to see how this might be something that can be offered to members and families/friends.

Wellbeing Support:

- In March '20, provided some key COVID 19 support links materials which was then put onto the Lifelines Scotland web site as an early start to supporting members. This also highlighted the EAP as a source of help if needed.
- In April/May '20, we commissioned Andy Elwood to make three short videos: one based on the 5 ways to wellbeing; one based on "It's OK"; and one signposting the key areas of support. These are available on the new member intranet pages and two have been used on the Lifelines Scotland Volunteer pages ([Welcome to Lifelines Volunteer Responders](#)).
- Over the summer we built and populated a set of new (internet/intranet) pages for wellbeing with a more comprehensive approach to signposting. These Wellbeing pages will be reviewed on an ongoing basis but feedback from members would be really helpful.
- Our new **Benevolent Scheme** was launched at the beginning of June and I anticipate that Al Rose will report on that great piece of news separately. Details of the scheme can be found on the team internet pages or by contacting SMRbenevolentproject@scottishmountainrescue.org
- In November and January, I joined Moffat and Assynt respectively as part of their team training programmes to talk over the wellbeing initiatives, resources and support available to team members and families. I am happy to continue to do this for other teams if they wish.
- In January, I produced an A4 reminder sheet for team on the wellbeing support available to all members and families. This was sent out to all teams but can also be found on the Team Member internet pages, Wellbeing Section.
- In February, the refreshed Volunteer Responder pages were launched on the Lifelines Scotland site (main home page: <https://www.lifelines.scot/>).
- Going forward, we will be looking at how we can also support those in teams who have now attended SMHFA and other wellbeing sessions, as well as team leadership groups.

Welcome to the Team – Family booklet:

- In December, Tayside produced their (Welcome to the Team) Family booklet followed by Dundonnell in January. Others are in progress. Details of how to do this are on the Team Member internet pages, Wellbeing Section, or email wellbeingofficer@scottishmountainrescue.org
- The RNLI have used the SMR (Welcome to the Team) Family booklet as a template for their own version largely using the same general wording and layout. They have credited SMR on their booklet. This is a great endorsement of the work that the New Zealand Fire service originally put into this initiative for families.

External Links and input:

- I joined a Zoom call with Duke of Cambridge in May, along with one representative from Lifelines Scotland, Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The initial approach was to Lifelines Scotland. The Duke of Cambridge was keen to hear more about the work we have been doing and particularly for volunteer responders (<https://www.lifelines.scot/post/by-royal-zoom-appointment>)
- The Duke is committed to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of the emergency services community, having witnessed first-hand the challenges that emergency responders face on a daily basis during his roles as both an Air Ambulance and RAF Search and Rescue pilot. The Duke of Cambridge and The Royal Foundation have established a new Emergency Responder Senior Leader Board (<https://royalfoundation.com/the-duke-and-the-foundation-convene-the-new-emergency-services-senior-leaders-board-to-address-mental-health/>) and I have been invited to join a working group that will help support the Board. The working group met in initially November and again in February and will start to move forward but it appears that currently we are in Scotland we are better served than colleagues in the other three nations.
- Last summer I took part in a new short video that is being used on the new Lifelines Scotland website <https://www.lifelines.scot/> and in the last couple of months a number of us in MR have contributed short videos for the refreshed section for Volunteer Responders.

If you have any questions on the above, please email me at:

Steve Penny

wellbeingofficer@scottishmountainrescue.org

Development & Infrastructure Lead

Reporting Period: 29th October 2020 – 10th March 2021:

Covid 19: I continue to work closely with the Covid 19 medical group to ensure that teams have as much help, support and guidance around the ever changing Covid 19 situation. Collating as much information as possible and ensuring there was enough PPE for teams.

UKSAR Training Fund: A meeting was held at the end of November 2020 with CAF and the organisations who were successful in receiving this fund. Frustrations were raised at this meeting at the lack of communication CAF have given us all in regards to spending our funds and time frames etc. We were assured that in the following weeks after the meeting that we should receive information on how to use the funding going forward – I can confirm we are still waiting on these

details from CAF. We continue to ask them what is happening with the 2021/2022 application process, however we are still yet to hear. An update will be sent to teams as soon as we have more details.

Casualty Care: Working closely with the Casualty Care Group to put a plan together for 2021/2022 training and assessments.

Finance: Moira (SMR Treasurer) and I work closely together on a weekly basis to ensure the day to day running of the organisation's finances are up to date.

Medical Support: Providing support to Alastair Glennie (SMR Medical Officer), I help teams organise their stretcher services and place any medical orders they need. Along with Alastair, we monitor the SAS budget. Stretcher services and medical orders have been increasing at a huge rate this last year. Please note, if teams are needing medical supplies not to leave it until the last minute. SP Services have a huge demand due to the ongoing pandemic and currently any orders placed are taking – in some cases – 3 to 5 weeks to be delivered.

Social Media: Actively running the SMR social media platforms, Facebook, Twitter & Instagram. Our followers continue to grow and since the last meeting we are almost at 32k page likes on Facebook, making us the most liked MR page in Scotland. Just a reminder, if you have any pictures or content that you think would be good for social media then please contact me on yasmin@scottishmountainrescue.org.

SAS: In January and February a lot of time was consumed in supporting teams with the Scottish Ambulance Service request for help. Providing support to Mario, teams and Exec where needed. I also spoke with Police Scotland several times every week regarding airwaves, and collating information such as PPE and airwaves requests from teams and attended several meetings. A special thank you to Mario, as he put a lot of time and effort into making this work from a Scottish Mountain Rescue point of view.

Volunteering: Sarah our office support volunteer has been great and is currently writing a piece on Drones which should be finished soon.

ThinkWINTER: This campaign started in November with Mountaineering Scotland, Glenmore Lodge, Snowsports Scotland, Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland and Mountain Training. Each organisation has put a massive amount of work into make this campaign our biggest one yet.

Radio Covers: Over half the teams who requested radio mics covers, now should have them. If you are a team that does not have them yet, then don't worry, they should be coming your way in the next few weeks.

Yasmin Harrower

yasmin@scottishmountainrescue.org

Head of Development

Update on current work and successes in the six months to 30 March 2021

The last six months have continued to be a challenging time for fundraising, with the continued impact of lockdowns curtailing certain fundraising activities, and in addition the funding environment is extremely competitive just now.

However, despite the challenges there is lots of positive news to report:

- We produced a short video for social media to promote supporting via a monthly donation. This advert has been successful, for example we had 686 clicks in February.
- We now have 218 supporters making monthly donations totalling around £1,500 monthly (£18,000 annually). My goal is to increase this number to over 1,000 over the next couple of years.
- Our Facebook fundraising has been growing steadily, we have had 31 people hold fundraisers and are typically getting around 5 new fundraisers a month through Facebook and I expect this to continue to grow.
- The partnership with Mountain Warehouse charity bags came to an end at the end of December and raised £4,394.09, which is good considering the disruptions to retail during last year.
- We had cheques totalling over £20k from smaller trust applications, this includes 5 new trusts that have not previously supported SMR.
- We have quite a few new partnerships with smaller businesses for example Top Out Brewery, Thrunotes, the Wee Munro Journal and Munro Beanies. Many of these partnerships are giving us a percentage of income from sales.
- We put out a call for rescue stories and received five really good stories, these have all been written up and will be shared on social media and elsewhere to raise the profile for the teams involved and Scottish Mountain Rescue.
- We have sourced free supporter car stickers and logo stickers.
- We receive a lot of enquiries from media companies interested in making documentaries. Often this don't get very far because of the practical issues around costs and filming. However, IWC Media which has now been shortlisted by the BBC to make a documentary. We have had quite a bit of input to supporting them with this, whilst remaining impartial around which teams they might choose to film if selected.
- Legacy income is up on last financial year. We also have a number of legacies still in the pipeline to be received most likely next financial year. The value of these will depend upon the final valuation of the estate.
- I have had a continued focus on stewardship of existing supporters, including sending SMR Christmas cards to all our donors, holding a virtual base tour (Thanks Arran MRT) for supporters, and keeping supporters updated through our quarterly newsletter and bespoke updates for more significant donors.
- We have started using the Much Loved platform to support in Memory fundraisers. This was a bit of a slow build, but it has finally taken off, and now we are finding that In Memory fundraisers who use this platform are raising really significant amounts.
- We are continuing to discuss and support a potential partnership with Helly Hanson and the two teams who were chosen through the reverse tender process, and if terms are successfully agreed we hope to launch this early in the new financial year.
- The Nokian partnership will reach the end of the three years of the partnership in September. Unfortunately, due to the impact of the Pandemic on the business and the fact that they are no longer going to be supplying Nordic Tyres in the UK, the partnership will come to an end. They will however continue to supply teams with tyres up until 30 September 2021. Moving forwards Nokian are going to introduce me to Nordic Tyres and I will discuss with them whether they wish to continue supporting us direct.

Plans for the next six months

In the next six months I am planning to focus on the following:

- More virtual supporter events such as online events, and once it becomes possible it would also be great to try some in person events, and inviting more of our supporters to come along to events to find out more about Scottish Mountain Rescue and teams.

- Regular monthly giving – continuing to promote regular giving through online advertising and also looking at other avenues for promoting making a monthly donation to Scottish Mountain Rescue. The target is to grow our monthly supporters from 218 to 1000 within the next two years.
- Legacy fundraising – to promote leaving gifts in wills to Teams or Scottish Mountain Rescue, through various channels, including producing legacy bookmarks, to send out with the annual review and any other opportunities for distribution, contacting funeral directors to provide information about leaving a gift in your will to mountain rescue, and also considering running will writing promotions.
- Merchandise – setting up the sale of merchandise on the website as an additional way to raise income
- Writing and implementing a plan to attract more philanthropic major donors over the next few years.
- Working with Supplier volunteers (when available) to increase discounts and deals on kit and equipment for teams

I will also be working with Yasmin and Viv on continuing to keep our profile high and also to invest in building great relationships with our existing donors, this is vital for maintaining and growing our fundraising in the long term.

Elsie Riley

elsie@scottishmountainrescue.org

Office Co-ordinator

I have been in my full-time role as Office Co-ordinator for 5 months already, all of which I have been working from home, with the occasional trip to Glenmore Lodge to collect post. Yasmin and I have created my work plan for the coming year, identifying all of the key tasks that I am responsible for. There is quite a lot of variety in my role to keep me busy. Here's a flavour of what I do:

Part of my day to day work involves working as the key point of contact for people approaching SMR, be it via the phone, email or mail.

We are planning to get the national training programme in place for the coming year, on a rolling basis, and to this end we have created a calendar on the intranet site, ready to put courses in with links to the relevant pages and booking process. This will ensure that team members will be able to plan ahead and see what is on offer. Yasmin retains responsibility for medical courses and I will administer all of the other training courses.

I also assist Elsie with fundraising admin tasks. Looking after the stewardship of our new independent fundraisers, keeping the database up to date, despatch of support materials, etc.

I have spent a fair bit of time recently planning, sourcing and editing articles that can be used in publications or online. This is an ongoing task, so if anyone has anything they think would make a good article, please share.

Aside from this I delegate one day a week to finance – downloading donation reports, updating Quickbooks (our accounting software package), banking cheques, writing thank you letters. The plan is for me to also be responsible for raising payments on behalf of SMR.

Viv Warwick

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