



Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team

Mountain and Cave Rescue in Swaledale and Wensleydale

NEWS RELEASE

Five Year Journey Delivers New Vehicles for Mountain Rescue Team

Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team (SMRT) is delighted to announce that it has now taken delivery of two brand new Land Rovers to replace its obsolete transport. The new vehicles represent the culmination of five years' intensive fundraising and will be a huge step forward for the Team's ability to deliver its free search and rescue service to Swaledale and Wensleydale. The two new Land Rovers have been specially kitted out to meet the demanding standards of Mountain Rescue teams across the UK and cost a total of £95,000.

Rescue Leader Roger Swainston initiated and led the successful campaign but was keen to stress that the fundraising success was a real team effort: 'The thought of SMRT raising just short of £100,000 without using the Team's regular funding sources was truly daunting in 2005. As a result of our members' dedication to the project and the generous donations received from many organisations and individuals our dreams have now become reality.'

Much of the money raised was the result of relatively small donations from members of the public who value the work that SMRT has done in the area for over forty years but there were a number of substantial grants from organisations such as the Yorkshire Building Society.

Perhaps most significant of all was a generous grant of £38,000 from the Yorkshire Dales LEADER Programme, which supports services in remote rural communities. This is jointly funded by DEFRA and the European Union, is managed by Yorkshire Forward in the Yorkshire and Humber Region and administered by North Yorkshire County Council.

Kevin Lancaster, who chairs the Yorkshire Dales LEADER Management Group which decided to make the award to SMRT, was delighted to see the new Land Rovers up and running and said: 'From the very first, my colleagues and I were convinced that this was exactly the sort of application which we wanted to support. On behalf of Yorkshire Dales LEADER I wish them all the best for the future.'

Whilst expressing pleasant surprise at the speed at which the Team had achieved such a substantial objective, SMRT President Mac Bryant congratulated Roger Swainston and everyone involved and said: 'The new vehicles are splendid and will enable the Team to provide an even better service to everyone in our beautiful area. The fact that the money was raised so quickly reflects very positively on the high regard for Swaledale Mountain Rescue Team in the area. Our volunteer members have been training and serving their local communities for a generation and we hope that they will continue to do so for many years to come'.

ENDS – please see pictures and notes for editors below



Supported in partnership by:



The two new Land Rovers outside Swaledale Mountain Rescue HQ Catterick Garrison

Note for editors:

The project began in 2005 with five team members meeting to decide a way forward and generate enough income to buy two brand new Land Rovers to replace the existing vehicles without depleting the Team's regular fund raising sources.

As the five-year project progressed a review of the vehicle requirements of the Team ensured that the roles of the vehicles were understood in depth and a decision was reached to obtain two identical Land Rover 110 Utility Wagons. Following conversion the new vehicles provide room to carry our rescue equipment in the rear compartment, as well as seating for a driver and up to three passengers.

The other role of any mountain rescue Land Rover is to function as a casualty transport vehicle. This has been achieved with specialist conversion work to the interior of the new vehicles allowing the secure attachment of a rescue stretcher, along with seating for the casualty's medical attendant.

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