



## Borders Search and Rescue Unit



### Coronavirus

The Coronavirus has certainly focussed the need for the team to have an appropriate base. A hygiene and cleaning protocol is in place, which will necessarily slow the response time of the team and necessitate a major clean of kit, both team and personal afterwards. However, the team is ready to render assistance although certain restrictions and precautionary measures have been decided on by the Scottish Mountain Rescue Committee. A limited number of team members will be used whenever possible. Team vehicles will only have one member in each, and other team members will travel singly in their own vehicles. The lock down has also curtailed team training and meetings for the present.

### Team History



On Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 1962, three shepherds, were returning from Rothbury Market to their homes between Alnham and Ewartly Shank in the Cheviot Hills.

A blizzard was in force as they dropped off one of their party. The other two then tried to reach Ewartly Shank, their remote farmstead across the moors, by tractor.

At that time there was no telephone line at the farm. Two days later the first herd was out tending his flock, when the wife of one of the others asked when she should be expecting her husband home. It was then that the alarm was raised. Rescues parties began a search. The tractor was found abandoned and a body discovered buried under drifting snow late on the Tuesday. He was only half a mile from home. The following day another body was found only 100 yards away from where the first had been found.

This tragedy and the increasing number of people going into the hills was the catalyst for the formation of the local BSARU. Detective Constable Anthony Robinson and Mr. Jack Robb formed the team out of the Yetholm Rover Scouts. The group was joined a little later by members of the Cheviot Walkers Club from Kelso.

Five years later in 1968 the Ministry of Health gave the unit official recognition as a Mountain Rescue Team. The only team in the South of Scotland at the time.

**Stay safe, stay local, stay well**

At the time of writing (18<sup>th</sup> April) Scottish Mountain Rescue has issued a statement saying no team has been called out since the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March. This is the longest period between call outs since the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001. We thank the public for heeding the warning (highlighted above) to avoid going into the hills/mountains which in the event of a mishap would initiate a call out and put MR personnel at risk of infection.

The team has recently been able to hold a short meeting using zoom – the wonders of technology – and this may well be the route for some time.

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<https://www.scottishmountainrescue.org> and <http://www.bordersar.org.uk>  
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