

The Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Team has just experienced the busiest month in its entire 68 year history with a total of ten call-outs during July. At one stage they had five call-outs in a single week.

The majority were injuries from falls either from walking or climbing as well as a mountain biker incident and a young lad who came off his motorbike during trials at Bewerley. Two incidents occurred at the Cow and Calf rocks above Ilkley and a further three at Brimham Rocks.

Controller Phill Nelson reports " The frequency was certainly a test of our manpower resources, in some cases members seeking time off work several times to attend and with our headquarters building still empty due to our major building extension they were also a good test of our temporary logistical arrangements with vehicles and kit spread around Grassington "

The month of call-outs also had the very rare situation of four of the ten rescues involved young boys ranging from four years old to 16 - and all these before the schools summer holidays got underway.

So far this year the rescue team volunteers have been called out 27 times as well as two stand downs before they left Grassington and resulting in some 720 hours given for the actual rescues. Many more hours have been performed on training exercises and equipment maintenance.

(232 words )