
**GALLOWAY MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM
PRESS RELEASE**

FUNDRAISING FLAG DAY IN AYR

Despite the credit crunch and economic recession, the people of Ayrshire have once again appreciably supported Galloway Mountain Rescue Team during their Flag Day on 29th November. The now annual street collection, organised by team member Kenny MacKay from Maybole, raised a fantastic £1614.

Team leader Eric Johns, who lives in Ayr, said,
“We weren’t sure how much money we’d raise this year following the credit crunch. Very quickly our fears were swept away as folks from all over Ayrshire seem to be flooding into the town to start their Christmas shopping. For some, it has become an annual visit to speak to the team and chat about what we’ve been doing during the year”

The money raised during this collection, and others, will be put towards the refurbishment of the new team base in Newton Stewart. The former ambulance station has been purchased for the team by the Order of St. John following an extraordinary agreement by Dumfries and Galloway Council to sell the property to the team for £1.

Eric said,
“Whilst the new base is a priority for the moment, we can’t lose sight of the fact that it takes around £25,000 to operate the team annually. Our vehicles need to be maintained and will eventually require replacement, whereas our team members need a significant amount of personal issue specialist clothing and equipment. Once again we sincerely thank everyone who supported us on Saturday”

You can find out about the work of Galloway MRT and in particular their new base by visiting www.gallowaymrt.org.uk.

[End]

Attached

- (1) Photograph of Galloway MRT Members during the collection
- (1) Photograph of team Leader Eric Johns with two local supporters