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## **GALLOWAY MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM PRESS RELEASE**

### **Galloway Mountain Rescue Team have a new man at the top**

As Galloway Mountain Rescue Team confirms their new leader, the team are entering a new era with a new base. At their annual general meeting last Thursday, outgoing Team Leader Chris Marshall reflected on the three years since he took up the post in 2005. The most noteworthy development to the team's capability is undoubtedly the decision by Dumfries and Galloway Council to sell the former Newton Stewart Ambulance Station to the team for a truly remarkable sum of £1. The final legal processes are ongoing to sell the property to the Order of St. John, who will maintain the new base on behalf of the team, and they are eagerly looking forward to setting up their new headquarters.

Outgoing Team Leader Chris Marshall said

“There are too many people to thank individually for all the work they have done in the last three years. We train as a team, we are called out as a team, and everyone is but a cog within a dedicated group of volunteers. I would like to thank each and every one of them for their support and commitment during my time as leader. I wish my successor Eric Johns well for his 3 year position, and hope that with our new base and the inevitable challenges ahead, he embraces the enthusiasm of everyone concerned.”

The new Team Leader, Eric Johns, takes up his post with immediate effect. Eric hails from the West Country and joined the team at the beginning of 2003. Prior to moving to Ayr he was a member of Kinder MRT in the Peak District and has previously served in the RAF Mountain Rescue Service in Scotland.

Eric said

“Having served my apprenticeship as Chris's depute I'm looking forward to the challenge of leading the team and thank him for all his hard work over the last three years. As Chris has said, we are a team and every one of us has an equal role to play. In all my years in MR I have always been impressed by the sheer enthusiasm and dedication of the volunteers who are UK Mountain Rescue and the Galloway Team are certainly no exception. The team members may all be unpaid volunteers but mountain rescue demands the highest of professional standards in all that we do and the team trains hard to achieve this. There is something about being a team member that is hard to find almost anywhere else, a real sense of purpose and of belonging. With the acquisition of our new headquarters the team will move forward into a new era and we are very grateful to the Order of St John for all their support”.

Appointed and elected members of the team committee serve for a 3 year term. Other changes in the team structure see the appointment of Mike McCann as the new Deputy Team Leader and the return of David Tyson as Training Officer. Richard Williams was also elected as the Honorary Treasurer.

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Fundraising is essential to finance the operation of the team. The expense involved in running the team, and providing a 24/7 emergency response, is extremely demanding. Despite grant funding from the Scottish Government and support from the Order of St. John, the volunteers need to organise an array of fundraising activities. A new Fundraising Sub Committee has been formed to perform that very function headed by team member Dave McNicol and they hope the folks of Galloway will support them whenever possible.

Anyone interested in the work of Galloway MRT should visit [www.gallowaymrt.org.uk](http://www.gallowaymrt.org.uk) where you will find a host of information about the team, their activities, and lots more about the Galloway Hills.

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Attached  
Photograph of new the team leader Eric Johns