
GALLOWAY MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM PRESS RELEASE

76 year old woman in dramatic riverside airlift rescue

On Saturday afternoon (13th June) Galloway Mountain Rescue Team were called to an incident at Riverside, Newton Stewart. The fire service and ambulance paramedics were already on scene treating a 76 year old woman who had fallen 12 feet down an embankment onto a rocky riverbank.

Mike McCann, Deputy Team Leader of Galloway MRT said,
“We were called to assist with the recovery of the stretcher from the riverbank. It was a difficult location from which to safely lift the stretcher and it was compounded by the fact that the casualty had sustained a suspected spinal injury in addition to a broken leg. Taking everything into account, and having carefully considered other options, Rescue 177, Royal Navy SAR helicopter was called to the scene from HMS Gannet at Prestwick. The helicopter was on scene within 35 minutes.”

“Once the helicopter arrived, a winch man was lowered along with a caged stretcher. We assisted in the connection of the stretcher to the winch and she was very quick lifted into the aircraft”

The injured woman, from the Wishaw area, was subsequently removed by Rescue 177 to Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary, a journey time of around 15 minutes.

As an aside – Mike McCann and other members of Galloway MRT had just returned from attending a ‘Families Day’ at HMS Gannet. Mike had spoken to the winch man involved in this rescue, who has just started his secondment to HMS Gannet. As they parted company, they joked about next meeting on some dark windswept hillside in the Galloway Hills; little did they know they’d be involved in an unusual rescue, near a town centre, less than 2 hours later! Such is the unpredictable nature of search and rescue.

Find out about the activities of Galloway MRT; callouts, weather forecasts, walk routes, training and much more, on our website at <http://www.gallowaymrt.org.uk>.

[END]

Notes to Editor –

1. See also attached Press Release regarding a cheque presentation connected to the above release
2. We unfortunately do not have any ‘useable’ photographs. If you acquire any photos from public contributions, we’d appreciate a copy for our website. Please send to kneeshaw2@bigfoot.com