Probus talk 7th November 2024

# Lomond Mountain Rescue Service

## Graham Kelly

Graham explained that Lomond Mountain Rescue Service operates on behalf of Police Scotland and that they have immediate access to specialist services such as Air Ambulance, Scottish Fire & Rescue and Rescue Teams from other areas where appropriate.

Their base is in Drymen and the service is provided entirely by volunteers who receive neither pay nor expenses. The service receives some modest official grant funding but the bulk of their funds comes from donations and fund raising.

Ongoing training is provided on a fortnightly basis, with some periodic specialist courses. They have an extensive range of equipment covering; personal clothing, safety and communications technology, group technical kit, medical drugs and pain relief supplies. Good communications equipment is essential and must operate in the remote locations the team have to reach. Graham had brought along a wide range of equipment to show us.

In 2024 to date the team has received 39 call outs, roughly one per week. Their overall experience shows they receive more requests for help in spring/summer, usually of a less serious nature, and during autumn/winter there are fewer requests but of a more serious nature.

Their mountain safety advice to walkers/climbers, especially those inexperienced, is to plan ahead and carefully consider; weather conditions, the type of terrain, the make-up of the walking/climbing group and to be aware of the Mountain Weather Information Service. All walkers/climbers should have some navigational skills.

Graham stressed that all call outs are treated seriously. There are instances of being called to walkers who are clearly ill equipped and under prepared but the team's philosophy is to treat all requests as a call for help. This non-judgmental approach - by volunteers - helps us to understand why the service is so admired and respected.

(Bob Brenan)