

Ochils Mountain Rescue Team



PRESS RELEASE

Permanent home for Ochils Mountain Rescue

The Ochils Mountain Rescue Team is pleased to announce the opening of their state-of-the-art mountain rescue Post at Benview, Fishcross. The opening will take place on the 1st July at 2.15pm by HRH The Duke of Gloucester.

The Ochils Mountain Rescue Team was founded in 1971 and initially occupied an old police cell in Alva Police Office. As the Team grew in terms of numbers, callouts and equipment, a move was made to Menstrie Scout Hall where it remained for a number of years. During this period the team was recognised by the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland which granted us the status of Mountain Rescue Post and permission to display the official Mountain Rescue Post plaque which can be seen on all mountain rescue posts throughout Scotland.

The acquisition of our first vehicle meant that the team had to find alternative accommodation and moved to the Police Office at Tillicoultry and then to the Glenochil Nursery at Menstrie where it remained until completion of this new post..

"The Order of St John have supported mountain rescue in Scotland through a vehicle replacement programme and now the provision of mountain rescue posts. Our application to support the building of our new post was successful and we now have the building we see today.

"We are delighted at the provision of a building that is not only fit for purpose but has been designed to keep energy use to a minimum and therefore reduce the cost of running for a charitable organisation," said Kev Mitchell, Team Leader of the Ochils MRT.

The new base for the Ochils is the 11th mountain rescue base in Scotland which the charity, St John Scotland, has funded so far. The total financial support from St John Scotland given to Scottish Mountain Rescue since 1998 is over £2.5m. As well as bases, St John Scotland provides rescue vehicles and equipment. It was also the main sponsor of the new rescue boat on Loch Lomond and supports SARDA, the Search and Rescue Dog Association.

"The mission of St John Scotland is to improve the health, safety and quality of life of people in need and our commitment to rescue operations is long-standing. We were delighted to fund the new base for the Ochils which will give the team the training facility and equipment storage space which they need to work most effectively," said Richard Waller, CEO of St John Scotland.