

O R E A D M O U N T A I N E E R I N G C L U B
N E W S L E T T E R

JUNE
1967.

A HOME IN DERBYSHIRE? - NEWSLETTER JUNE 1967 -

GEOFF
HAYES

- EXTRACT -

By now every Oread (I hope) will have read or heard of the Idea of a Club Hut in Derbysire. A committee of members under the Chairmanship of Harry Pretty has been formed and has already met. A search is already underway in an area East of the Ashbourn- Buxton Road, North of Matlock and South of Bamford. With the Longstone - Eyam area interpreted as the focal point of area preferred. It was decided that the type of building required should be an Established house, Cottage or form of dwelling. or b. Barns, derelict or other buildings suitable for conversion. The question of finance is to be left until a later date when something positive turns up.

Well that is some of the action already taken, what are the views of members? I as editor have the chance to speak out first. When I voiced my opinion at the last A.G.M I had in mind the kind of place that would become the active centre of the Oread in the Peak, with members gathering there not only to stop the Friday or Saturday night, but to meet friends on a Sunday morning say, before moving off for various climbing areas. It should be a place where Oreads will meet, perhaps hold Committee meetings or A.G.M.s, somewhere where notices could be posted, mountain rescue equipment kept etc. Working parties could be organised for evenings or half days. It should ideally be a place that would not always have to rely on visitors to pay for upkeep, so that one could go out whenever one wished and almost expect a bed. This hut would be far easier to administer being only about one hour away from the Nottm/Derby area.

Things are already beginning to happen. With Harry Pretty at the helm I'm sure a dream will be realised, but he needs everyone's active support. Have you seen the ideal place for a hut? Don't forget to look out when about in the Peak. Local landowners are being contacted, including the National Trust. Also the possibility of a grant from the Sports Council sounds quite favourable. I trust that the next few months will prove exciting for all those members who wish to see a hut of our own in the Peak.

What do others think? I would like to think that everyone thought the same as Bob Pettigrew who writing from the Himalayas says "Your Idea of a Derbyshire Hut is an excellent one and I support it all the way. The club must move forward in all directions". But Brian Cooke writes "Club should have a hut in the Lakes (Yes ed.) not in Derbyshire. A field yes but not a hut on your doorstep. Huts take up such a lot of time and money better spent on climbing. However if you do get one in Derbys doubtless we'll make good use of it on our occasional visits."

What are your views?

More news next month.

Geoff Hayes.



OREADS IN SHORTS

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW OVERDUE. PLEASE FORWARD YOURS TO THE TREASURER.

Harry Pretty was seen wearing Crampons for the first time for years - on his back lawn of course.

Please note the Date of the Annual Dinner this year is December 2nd this is later than previous years.

The Oread have sent a £ 5 . 0 . 0 donation to the Midlands Hindu Kush expedition.

Jim Kershaw has been in constant employment for the last six months. Is this a record? Condolences Jim.

New Members.

Howard Johnson 21 Raven Street, Derby.

Stewart Bramwell 79 Redcliffe St. Sutton - in - Ashfield Notts.

John Dench 37 Harver Road Mansfield Notts.

Applications for membership.

Mr and Mrs (John and Binnie) Crosse, 20 Candlebury Lane Cotgrave, Notts.

Proposed Geoff Hayes. Seconded Mick Berry.

Any member wishing to express their views on the above persons suitability for membership of the Oread should write to the Hon. Sec. Mrs R. Langworthy, 26 Field Lane Chilwell Notts.

Personal First Aid. The Peak District Mountain Rescue Organisation have compiled a small first aid Outfit. This is to be available to members of the Oread Team in the near future at a reduced cost. Any other member of the club may be able to purchase one. Contact Chuck Hooley.

Christine Brady's address is 27 Gilbert Crescent, Duffield, Derby.

Paul and Betty Gardiner are now on the telephone Derby 56246.

AND ALPH ALPINED -----

Derak Burgess

NEWSLETTER - JUNE 1967 - EXTRACT

Yes, to the cheers of the onlookers a dashing rescue was carried out on Beeston Tor which proved to be the highlight of the meet. A fair damsel, marooned by her compatriots in the hugh cave midway up the Tor was deemed in need of rescue. With little ado team Alpha sprang into action, the Thorn had it's first mass ascent and bodies hurtled into the cave; the resulting melee hardly likly to placate our fair maid. Chivalry prevailed in the end and some Cairngorm patter saw the terrified look fade from her eyes and she was quickly lowered off into Hayes's waiting arms.

The meet was well attended and most routes climbed by various parties. Lynx wall was really thrashed and no doubt opened several members eyes to the easier possibillites that exist on limestone. Those present, well if you wern't there there that's your 'pidgin'! Good old Alpha A.

LYKE WAKE WALK 24 June Clive Russell

The meet was well attended, the 22 walkers included Bill Kirk, Dave Williams, Mick Berry, Fred and Richard Allen, Simon and John Crosse, Paul Gardiner Gordon and Doreen Gadsby, Colin Hobday, Geoff Hayes, Paul Craddock and Christine and David Brady. And an assortment of Prospective members Etc.,

Departure (bleary eyed) from the campsite was at 5.00 am, arrival at Ravensglass about 7.30 pm. with forty miles of agony in between. Our thanks are due to the ladies who brewed up from vehicles at two of the three road crossings. Needless to say they bungled the third rendezvous but by this time our weary limbs would have locked solid if we had stopped anyway. Paul Craddock and Christine were seen withdrawing (into not in) the heather at Ralph Cross, but Craddock once again failed to shake off his future brother in - Law.

Sunday at the seaside saw a bunch of cripples hobbling into the sea and trying to play cricket. The weekend however was summed up thus by Fred Allen on Sunday morning. "Somebody hold me up while I put my trousers on".

Special congratulations to Fred, the oldest member, Richard and Simon Crosse the two youngest and to Gordon G whose feet were available for colour photographs at 1/- a time after the walk.

ESKDALE WHIT BANK HOLIDAY Nat Allen
NEWSLETTER - JUNE 1967 - EXTRACT

This was the third Whitsuntide that Oread's have camped at Brotherkeld Farm. The change in campsite scene being the most outstanding feature of the annual farago. It was certainly a far cry from the row of Mountain Tents, long a feature of the "good old days", to the vast array of Dormobiles, V.W.s chalets, caravans, to say nothing of Burgesses Jousting tent, complete with Ivanoe awning.

This year the battle of the bottle raged, and it was the baby's bottle that won. The "Ostermilk Meet" (as some wag called it) boasted a vast array of pottie's, prams, building bricks, and nappies. The influence of which affected the diehards, with Lol Burns putting a bib on "Taffy", Maria putting Handley's underpants in a plastic bag each night, Appleby cutting up Cordon's meat and John Fisher looking into baby Hayes mouth and saying sharply "Who did that 'bleedy job'."

40 members braved the changeable weather, the second wet night saw the drunken Corden (Bleu) gromp hoisting a hangmans noose, but some fast talking and a fine sunny day saved my neck. Saturday saw vigorous activity on Esk Buttress and Scawfell. Many wet ascents being made. Sunday was wet and many squelched across Scawfell. Brian Cooke clocked in on Mickledore, reviving the meet leader with a bar of chocolate. Monday dawned fine and dry but with wet clothes slow to dry late starts were in order. Several parties however climbed on the Napes and Wallerbarrow, in hot sunshine.

Tuesday started well but an early afternoon thunderstorm rather damped proceedings for parties already committed on Herron Crag and Esk.

The only worthy motoring incident was when prospective member Ron Chamber had a £70 - 0 - 0d sieze up on the M.6. near Lancaster, then made the meet with an expensive lift and members ferried them back home. The Pre-warned landlord weathered the all out attack on the beer houses with no body running out of ale.

Eskdale continued.....

Members present. Howard Johnson, Reg Squires and Ann, Cordon's Appleby's Burgesses, Handley's, Reynold's Langworthies, Lol Burns, Jim Kershaw, Weston's Cooks, Brian and Doug's, Bamfords, Hayes's, John Fisher, Carris's. Crosse's Chris Brady, Paul Craddock, Chris Culley, Russell's, Allen's Ron Chambers and Cath, the Sawyers and Honor.

VISIT OF CZECH MOUNTAINEERS 1967

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1967

A party of eight Czech mountaineers will be spending two weeks in the U.K. during October as guests of the B.M.C. and various British Clubs which are being co-ordinated by John Hunt's main Reception Committee.

I am representing the Peak District ~~as a member of Hunt's Reception Committee~~ and am responsible for organising the activities of the party during their visit to the Peak District from 11th - 13th October.

~~A draft programme has already been prepared and is now subject to acceptance by the Reception Committee.~~

A number of the "tigers" in the Oread have already been forwarned that their services will be required on the 12th and 13th October. This group ~~will form the nucleus of the "Host Party"~~ and will also be responsible for transporting the Czechs to North Wales on the 13th where they will be handed over to the C.C.

I shall be organising accommodation (in homes) for the party and, ~~inter alia~~, I hope to lay on a Sausage and mash supper at a Derbyshire pub on the Thursday night (12 October) at which club members, who are interested, can meet our guests. ~~There may also be reciprocal slide shows, but this, in addition to many other details, has still to be settled.~~

I shall be pleased to receive any offers of assistance, ~~or even suggestions.~~

This visit by Czechs is of course in direct line with the previous visits by the Russians and the Poles - but this is the first time Derbyshire has been included in the itinerary, and I would like to think that the Oread will be the mainspring of a successful first visit by an away team who normally climb in mountain areas so little known to us.

Harry Pretty 6.6.67.

OREADS IN SHORTS. Etc....

Congratulations to Paul Craddock and Christine who recently became engaged.

Dick Brown is now the Hon. Editor of 'Mountaineering' is this the reason that the Summer edition is months late! Has the Home Secretary pounced?

Congratulations to Eric and Merl Wallis on the birth of a Son.

Also Congratulations to Wally and Jean Smith on the Birth of their Son.

Xmas Social and dance - book this date - 15 December 67.

Alpine meet. Rendezvous at the camp site at Purtud about one mile North of Courmayeur. Most of the members of the meet should be there by July 23rd.

Brian Cooke will be there a week before then and will survey the area.

If he finds a better site he will leave a message at Purtud or Courmayeur.

1967

BIRCHEN EDGE JUNE 17-18th

Eric Byne (Extract)

After nearly 10 days of continuously fine weather I began to wonder if the conditions would hold out for this 38th rock climbing anniversary of mine. However my week of effort on the family prayer mat proved successful and the whole weekend was nothing else but fantastic. After counting 220 people I knew, either by name or familiar face, I gave up, but roughly estimate that about 250 people turned up from such sources as the Oread, Mountain Club, M.A.M., Peak C.C., S. U. M. C., Harrow Mountaineering Club, etc. Amongst these were such pre-war climbers as Harry Dover (whom I hadn't seen for 30 years) and Fred Jones the original founder of the S.U.M.C. There were also many odd bods from such far flung places as London, Lincoln, Leeds, etc.

As near as I could work out there appeared to be about 50 Oreads plus their offspring, which is a confirmation that "tradition plus fine weather plus the Peak District" is an unbeatable combination. Unfortunately I can no longer identify every face by name - I easily get confused these days, especially when I am having such a happy time greeting everyone. Janes was there of course, looking as ~~young and~~ leathery as ever and still full of those caustic flashes of humour which have always been such an essential and individual part of him - Nobby Millward was nursing him along making sure he didn't get into any serious trouble, - and keeping a wary eye on both was Judy Millward. What a Wench! ~~Where Judy is concerned words fail me! In my humble opinion Judy was always one of the most beautiful young girls to ever drift into the sphere of the Oread, and now well I guess she's the most beautiful woman I've ever seen sitting on the top of Birchen edge, and that's saying something for I've seen a few in my time, and the Oread has always been noted for fine looking wenches from Molly Pretty onwards. Needless to say Molly and Harry were there. It wouldn't have been so good if they hadn't been, for Birchens and Prettys are part of my life, and there's a never forgotten occasion when, on Molly's 21st, I got lost in the depths of Ladder Chimneys on a dark Midnight clutching her bottle of rum and imbibing at frequent intervals whilst Harry, Paul Gardiner, Keith Axon, and others, ~~quitting~~ wandered along the top looking for me - however that's a tale of it's own.~~

Nevertheless ~~To see Paul again at Birchen, and Betty Gardiner gave me a great kick - Johnna Welbourne too, who judging from the way he was spouting to a group on the camping ground about real estate and how to make a fortune selling houses, looks like becoming a bloody baron. Strangely enough I saw him do more climbing this time than I've seen him do previously. One mustn't forget Jack Ashcroft, looking as well as ever although somehow we never seemed to get together for a chat properly, - and Dave Penlington, growing grey, and in shorts. I don't think I've ever seen him in shorts before. - And Janet Penlington, looking as young and charming as the day Dave first snared her-- how do you do it Janet? Nevertheless you made me feel younger.~~

Somewhere I caught a glimpse of Laurie Burns. ~~I don't think he owes me anything any more he's cleared out.~~ Doug Cook was there, and Jack Leeson, and Jim Kershaw let me buy him a drink in the Robin Hood, which was indeed a privilege. ~~for you might not believe it but I've tried before without success.~~

There are but a few of the names that come to mind. I hope the others will forgive me for not mentioning them. I ought really to have had a register book at Nelson's Monument. The signatures would have proved interesting and informative.

One last thing - believe it or not - I did climb. I led all those mods and diffs whose every hand and foothold I know off by heart. I even brought the great Frank Fitzgerald up Left Ladder Chimney on a rope. He swears he slipped off on one move! Its hard to believe!

Birchen Edge continued.....

Anyway he retaliated by dragging me up Emma's Dilemma and another severe, and thus bolstered up he began a slanging match with Harry Pretty. He should have known better, if only from past experience. Its not surprising therefore to find that a little later he had to be rescued by a top rope on Crow's Nest. He finally departed leaving me with a final message for Pretty - a brief but telling- "Bugger ~~him~~ off"

If this were, for any reason, to be my last Birchens Edge Meet (God forbid) then it has been a glorious one.

~~Thank you all for coming~~

Eric Byne

HIMALAYAN NEWS - NEWSLETTER - JUNE 1967

News has just arrived of an accident in the Himalayas, of a party which included Bob Pettigrew. Climbing ^{on} a rope of three, the last man slipped and in a fall on snow of aprox 2,000 ft Pettigrew sustained a dislocated hip. He was carried by stretcher for many days and subsequently had the hip attended to in a hospital in N. India. He is now convalescing.

The best wishes of the whole club go out to Bob, and we trust that he will soon recover and be able to lead his usual full and active life.

(R.A.P. Had further surgery in 1998 as a result of the fall in '67 Ed.)

Recent and future meets....

First of all, thank's to all those meet leaders who have sent me reports of their meets since the last edition of the Newsletter.

Here is a very brief summary of some of the meets not reported upon.

In April we had the Cwm Cowarch Meet. As I was not there I can only say that I heard the weather was terrific and the meet well attended. The Crag was dry and a number of good routes done, with the 'hard men' splitting up and leading the others. The Arrans were also walked.

The evening meet at Cratcliff was almost rained and blown off but not before Les langworthy led a team along Bramleys Traverse. The normal way into the Bower proved popular as the overhang provided protection from the elements.

The weather on Cwm Eigiau meet was rather a let down, about 15 members managed to get along the track to the camp site at the foot of the Dam Wall. During the following week garages in the Derby area did a good trade in new exhausts! Parties ascended Amp theat Buttress on the Saturday and walked the Carneddls. Sunday started fine but the clouds soon descended. Fisher and Tony Bamford had a tough task when they climbed Amp theat. Rib in the grease! Dave weston left his sack at the foot of a climb but because of the thick 'Clag' was unable to find the start of the climb about two hours later. He did eventually find his sack, or at least Pam did! Dave now never removes his pack from his back.

Finally there has been a slight change in the meets card. The Cadder meet has been changed to August Bank Holiday (26 Aug). This should prove popular as the area should remain comparatively crowd free - we hope. The Rinogs Welsh Walk (this is a classic) Will now take place on the weekend of September 30th.

WELSH FOURTEEN PEAKS

Paul Gardiner

A cold dawn at 4.30 a.m. on Saturday found fourteen recumbent figures on the Railway Platform at the top of Snowdon. Mick Berry was in the outside berth keeping The draught off everyone else.

George Reynolds and Eric Wallis were first away while the remainder gathered with due ceremony on the summit cairn at 5 a.m. to satisfy the photographers in the party.

Geoff Hayes took the blame for leading everyone too far down the railway in the mist with the result that a climb of 200ft was necessary to cross Crib-y-Ddyssl.

The sun came out as Crib Goch was crossed and a quick descent of the North Ridge saw the party at the Cromlech by 6.30 a.m. for off loading of sleeping bags and stocking up with Breakfast.

Geoff, Mick, Gordon and Stewart built up a lead ascending Elidir Fawr followed by Dave Weston, Reg Squires, Roy Sawyer, Dave Robinsen, Dave Williams and Self.

Mark Hayhurst caught up with the latter group on Elidir Fawr but Wall Richardson was off form and returned to Nant Peris where he fell foul of a sheep dog which took a vicious fancy to his left leg. It is understood that Wal made a good recovery but the dog died of food poisoning...

The day really warmed up from 10 a.m. but a welcome breeze blew on the tops.

Six of the tail end party lost an hour on Glyder Fach in a vain attempt to rescue a lamb from a crevice.

This group reached the approach to Tryfan on hands and knees muttering "I'm B.....d" and "Let's pack in at Ogwen". However, the mobile canteen, staffed by Pam Weston, Betty Gardiner, Celia Berry, Ann Tharnhill and Anne Hayes, re-fused everyone at Glan Dena. (th quantity of tea brewed can be judged by the fact that six bottles of milk were used!) and, as a result nine of the starters finished the course to Aber.

Times varied from between 12 and 17 hours but all agreed that the weather and superb views made the effort worthwhile.

Sunday was spent on the beach at Black Rock with Herr sports director Gadsby in charge.

A final word of thanks to the Lady driver/teamakers for their efforts.

D. Burgess has for sale this years Bulletin of the Alpine Climbing Group which contains a supplement of routes around the Gran Paradiso, of interest to those on this years Alpine Meet. See Derek in the Wilmot for copies of "Alpine Climbing" price 3/6d

Here is an extract or two from a letter written to the Editor.

" You will be surprised to hear that I am lying here convalescing after my first serious accident in the mountains. It occurred during our reconnaissance of Papsura. We were three on the rope, descending a steep couloir. The lowest man slipped out of his steps, the second man's steps collapsed and the two of them dragged me off. We fell about 2000ft. and came to rest in the bergschrund. The other two were dazed but unhurt, but I fell across the lower lip of the 'schrund and dislocated my left hip. Ultimately I diagnosed this myself. John Ashburner ~~my former pupil at Derby School~~ got me installed in a tent just below the couloir that night. The next day they shifted me to the highest camp on a stretcher improvised from skis and aluminum pickets. There I lay for seven days while they organised a stretcher team of Porters from Manali. The journey across the mountains took eight days (I'm claiming a stretcher record!) It was 16 days before I was X rayed in Manali hospital and the diagnosis confirmed. By then I'd got used to seeing my left leg 2" shorter than my right!

By a lucky coincidence a professor of orthopaedic surgery was holidaying in Manali. He decided to try and reduce the joint under spinal anaesthesia - thus averting a serious operation which is the usual course after such a lapse of time. He was successful and I am now encased in plaster from chest to left big toe for six weeks.

I'm glad to report that a determined final bid for the peak by Colin and Geoff was successful.

■ salaams to the Oread

Bob. Pettigrew

MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM ALPHA

Recently the team has had a number of members drop out and been replaced by others. A new list of members and revised call out procedure has been compiled by Chuck Hooley. All members should now have a copy. The various sections of the team are requested to meet to arrange their own method of meeting on call outs. Any change of address or telephone numbers should be notified to Chuck without delay.

Caps

→ Going to the Alps? - NEWSLETTER JUNE 1967

The Alpine club have requested that all British Mountaineering Clubs notify their members of the situation in Chamonix this year. Because of trouble with English Climbers and campers in the past and particularly last year, the police at Chamonix will ban all English climbers from the area if there is a recurrence. If you do intend to go to Chamonix please set a good example. ~~Also there has been quite a loss of climbing gear etc. from tents not only in Chamonix. Lock away all the equipment you don't want to lose!~~