

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

November 1990

F O R T H C O M I N G E V E N T S

17 November Annual Dinner

No more bookings for the dinner are being taken. Just a reminder that it is to be held at the Gables Hotel on London Road in Derby at 7 for 7.30. There is a large car park behind the hotel which is reached from London Road on the right as the climber faces the crag (i.e. true left afterwards when it's all flowing downhill). Nick Moyes has succeeded in collecting nearly 130 pounds worth of prizes for this year's raffle, so make sure you come well prepared!

The post-dinner walk will leave from the Black Rocks car park at 1030 on Sunday and make its way more or less deviously to The Olde Gate at Brassington for hair of the dog pie etc.

Tu 4 December Ockbrook

Howard Lancashire will give a puff for the Alpine Club and follow it up with slides and reminiscences from his excellent collections of both on the topic of Alpine Climbing.

7 - 9 December Bullstones

Jack Ashcroft

There are still a few places available on the Yorkshire Dales meet. Senior citizens welcome, when rail cards could well be useful for a Dent to Horton walk on the Saturday. The accomodation at Grid ref 821 715 is well located for a Pen-y-Ghent itineraray on the Sunday.

If the temperature drops the Yorkshire Three Peaks will hold snow better than the Derbyshire Peak. The cynics will retort 'deeper slush to plod through'. But wait and see: the hills always have that element of surprise!

The Golden Lion, Friday night; the Crown, Saturday night for those who stay the course. Ring me on 0742 890717.

PROGRAMME OF WINTER LECTURES

4 December	Howard Lancashire	Alpine Climbing
15 January	A Roberts	Caving
5 February	Bobby Gilbert	Australian Climbing
5 March	R Ruddle	Climbing in Alaska

All lectures will be held in the Royal Oak at ockbrook and will start at eight o'clock.

P A S T E V E N T S A N D A N C I E N T H I S T O R Y

ROACHES MEET (Lisa Welbourn)

We picked a plum. If you came along you'll know. Otherwise, why didn't you - you missed a brilliant weekend!

Saturday saw just a handful of members enjoying the Skyline area. Gymnastics were had by all trying to get off the ground on 'Safety Net'.

The weather seemed to encourage a few more out on Sunday, when thirty or so Oreads plus many friends scattered themselves over the whole of the area. Having spent a good morning doing many routes in the warm sun, the afternoon saw a general drift to

the main face of the Upper Tier. Some routes later the chatter was interrupted by someone leading the 6a 'Fainted Rumours' route next to the Sloath. After many gasps and a round of applause, he had his picture taken hanging upside down under the roof eating a banana - there are some poseurs about aren't there?

LW

Letter to the Editor:

Sir

I write as the warden of Lundy to enquire whether your club is aware of the lack of competence which was displayed by some of your members during a recent stay here. I hope that by highlighting the more extreme instances, repetition can be prevented. We have always sought to avoid any untoward happenings on the island.

The prime concern has been the standard of ropework as epitomised by the antics of one of your more philistine members. I believe he was called 'deckchair' Stoogess by the others. I understand that his performance included everything from embarking on leading a route without tying on or taking the rope with him, to squatting vainly at the bottom of the Albacore slab, unable to tie on and follow as he had allowed the wind to blow the rope end away across the cliff. This really is quite dangerous especially for one shown prone to being caught by an incoming wave, calf deep in sea water. To his credit he has now it seems learnt to tie on using a figure of 8 knot (we have noticed that climbers here have been using this system for many years. Is this not normal?) Do you have any others in your club just emerging from a time warp?

Other relatively minor episodes are worthy of brief note. Some of the members brought no food with them but instead of using our shop persisted in scrounging from others. One in particular was noticed. From the comments of others this was his first experience on Lundy. They seemed to think it quite remarkable that he had made it at all.

Mike and Bobby (I think they are both men) on the other hand used the week as a gourmet opportunity. Maybe it assists them when climbing grade 6a in a gale. I hope so. We really do see a variety of visitors but it was a concern to watch this group. A young archaeologist type nearly set fire to his tweed jacket while learning to light a primus. Would it be worth your older members trying to instil a more correct approach in these matters?

Yours faithfully

Brig. A.G.T. Smart

Note: The Lundy trip was attended by Messrs Eyre, Gilbert, Wynne, Burgess, Burgess, Larkam, Weston, Willis, Spare and Briggs and Lisa, Heather and Vicki.

BROTHERSWATER (John Linney)

The days when 15 - 20 Dreads would turn up regularly on meets, especially camping ones, seemed long gone. I was therefore somewhat surprised but never the less delighted to count seventeen Dreads and friends gathered on Sykeside camp site. Saturday morning, bright and promising saw climbers and walkers depart for Dove Crag, Castle Rock of Triermain, Pinnacle Ridge and High Street. The evening in the hotel was convivially spent by all recalling the day's activities of hard climbs and routes.

Sunday and still the weather is good, parties depart for Shepherd's in Borrowdale and for walks over local fells in and around Dovedale. Well done Ruth. Apologies to George and Janet for leaving them behind. Many thanks to all who came.

JL

LANGDALE (Rock Hudson)
(No report received).

GOLDEN OLDIES (Doreen Hodge)

Sixteen members had an enjoyable weekend despite heavy rain on Saturday which dampened everything, especially enthusiasm. Consequently the hardest thing tackled was an assault on Dinas Dinlle beach on Saturday afternoon.

Due to a last minute hitch, the meet leader couldn't travel down until Saturday evening, but arrived in time to join the others in an excursion to the Snowdonia Mount hotel (I think that's what it's called) at Waunfawr where everyone tucked into a meal at excellent prices. (Nothing over three quid). Plenty of room to eat and park. A welcome change from the elbow jostling at the Prince Llewellyn and the Quellyn. I can highly recommend it.

Sunday dawned bright but windy so the majority headed off to the Pennant col and from there traversed Moel Lefn and Hebog.

A good social meet. Thank you all for coming.

DH

FROM OUR
CONTEMPORARIES

Enterprise at 80

From Mr G. F. Harrison

Sir, Although in an entirely different field from the remarkable achievement of Mr Don Mackridge (October 19) may I report another Grandma Moses exploit?

At 60 years of age, with the enthusiastic encouragement of a close friend, I started rock-climbing and after the first time out was well and truly hooked. I still climb in the Lake District, Snowdonia, Scotland and the Dolomites. Nothing very difficult. "Hard very severe" at best. I shall be 80 in November.

Yours sincerely,
GORDON HARRISON,
New Place, High Street,
Whitchurch-on-Thames,
Reading, Berkshire.

THE TIMES FRIDAY NOVEMBER 2 1990

PHOTO MEET (Ken Bryan)

(No report received, but I understand that the meet was very well attended in spite of, or maybe because of, the last minute change of venue. Peter Scott was the overall winner and John Linney won the club interest section with an extraordinary photo of ...) Will competitors please collect their slides from Steve Bashforth.

ed

OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting failed to soar to its usual heights of intellectual brilliance, nor did it descend to the customary levels of acerbity. Discussion ranged from reciprocal rights for the Pinnacle Club (the mind boggles) to any other business.

Ernie Phillips reported that in the most recent discussions with the Chatsworth estate, it had transpired that there had been a misunderstanding about the proposed rent increase for Heathy Lea. At the AGM it had been agreed that we should pay for the cost of the new roof and flush toilet, through a temporary increase spread over a number of years. However what the estate had in mind was a permanent increase.

Roger Larkam reported difficulty in preparing a budget, since he had received no figures from the big spenders on the huts sub-committee. The committee did their sums for them and the treasurer now has the makings of a budget. Likewise the meets secretary received some help with the 1991 meets list. He was also advised by the journal editor that no journal was imminent and the committee had no objection to a slight expansion of the newsletter into areas that had been covered in the journal during the last decade. One committee member said that no-one read the newsletter, so it didn't matter anyway!

STAIR (Roger Larkam)
(No report received).

AT THE WELSH HUT by Emma Gregson

On Friday, we went to the Welsh hut, then we went to the pub. On Saturday we went up Yr Aran but only got to the old slate mine because it was raining. We had something to eat in the slate quarry tunnel. At teatime it stopped raining so we walked along the old railway track and back through the forest. On Saturday night we went to the chip shop and the pub.

On Sunday the weather was wet and cold. We looked at the Snowdonia Marathon. Then we went home. There were a lot of people in the hut but it was very sad because I could only take Graham and Andrew out.

[Dad adds that although the hut was nearly full, attendance by real children was scant; given the bad weather, maybe they did not miss much.]

C H A N G E S O F A D D R E S S

Roger Penlington
15, Beech Hill Road, Sheffield S10 2SA
tel 0742 680949

Brian and Lynn Wright
Bryan Hey, Ackenthaite, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7DH
tel 05395 64120

F O R S A L E

Pair of ladies size 7 Nordica ski boots. Offers to Roger Larkam,
tel 0332 383371

Kodachrome 64, 36 exposure slide film. Expires October 1991.
Five pounds per roll. Rob Tresidder 0629 823953

SKIING HOLIDAY MERIBEL 19 JANUARY 1990

Due to a misunderstanding about the date we find ourselves with a spare place for a week's skiing in Meribel. A group of 17 of us are going. We are staying in Meribel Mottaret in 4 or 5 person self catering apartments. The cost will be 201 pounds including ski carriage and flight from Birmingham. A deposit of 85 pounds is payable now. A three valleys ski pass can be bought in the resort for 70 pounds.

Please contact Lisa Welbourn on Derby (0332) 775243 if you want more details. I'm sure we could increase the size of the party if necessary, but the cost would be 20 pounds more per extra person because we got an early booking discount.

HUT BOOKINGS

Tan-yr-Wyddfa

November 9 - 10	Lichfield MC 16 beds
16 - 17	Hull MC 16 beds
23 - 24	Bewdley MC 16 beds
30 - Dec 1	Mercian MC 16 beds
December 7 - 8	Croydon MC 16 beds
14 - 15	Derwent MC 16 beds
21 - Jan 1	OREAD

During the summer months quite a few Oreads visited the Welsh hut without booking. This finally came to a head on the August bank holiday weekend, with the hut being overfilled. This situation makes it very difficult for those who have booked a bed, arrive late at night and find their bed taken by someone who hasn't (booked that is). It is the committee's decision that this situation cannot be allowed to continue: all members are reminded of the need for booking (see your handbook!). Please also note that the hut bookings published in the newsletter are only up to date at the time of going to press.

Finally, the reminder in the last newsletter about outstanding hut fees failed to bring in the cash! Will the following defaulters please pay immediately: J Welbourn, D Appleby (24 quid!), H Pretty, I Sutton, M Wren, J Salmon.

Colin Hobday, Hut Bookings secretary. tel 0332 551594 (home)
0332 294241 x296 (work)

Heathy Lea

November 9 - 10	K Bryan 8 beds
24	D Weston (whole hut)

An act of arson has been perpetrated at Heathy Lea. Both the lounge and the bedroom in the cottage are out of commission, but both the barn and the kitchen may be used.

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to Nick Evans who has been elected to full membership of the Oread.

NEXT EDITION

I intend to publish the next edition on Tuesday, 4 December. Please send all written material to me at 61 West End, Wirksworth DE4 4EG to arrive by Monday, 28 November.

Rob Tresidder

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