

England laid bare

NEWSLETTER OF THE OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

June 1991

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

Summary:

7 - 8 June Wasdale camping (and climbing!)
14 - 15 June Cloggy bivvy
Wed 19 June Cratcliffe & Robin Hood's Stride
21 - 22 June Wimberry
28 - 29 June Northumberland

7 - 8 June. Wasdale

Please see notice in May newsletter or contact Dereck Burgess.

14 - 15 June. Clogwyn du'r Arddu bivouac meet

Please see notice in May newsletter or contact Bobby Gilbert.

Wed 19 June. Cratcliffe cycle extravaganza.

Bobby Gilbert

The Cratcliffe Tor meet will have an optional alternative approach by bicycle. One team will leave Derby about 5 arriving at the crag at about 6.30. The option is then to go for a further circuit of neighbouring dales or to unpack boots and chalk bag for bouldering at Robin Hood's Stride. Beer from 9.30 onwards will be at the Boat Inn, Cromford (small lane on L about 30 yards before hitting the A6) thus ensuring a minimal distance to wobble home. Four wheel travellers welcome. For more details of pick-up points etc contact me at the Brunswick the night before or ring Derby 365058 (home) or 0332 42442 (ext 6394, work).

28 - 29 June. Northumberland

Chris Radcliffe

"There is no nobler country than that of Northumberland as it rolls processionally northward to the Border in great waves of coloured and historic moorland, cresting upon the skyline into sudden and surprising crags, which crown for us the magnificent walking with admirable rock climbs." - Geoffrey Winthrop Young.

This says it all - a fine area, little visited by the main throng of climbers but with excellent climbs and unspoilt countryside. It seems remote, but with a straightforward journey M1, M18, A1(M) it is no more than four hours from Derby - much the same as the northern Lakes.

This is the best sandstone climbing in England - sound, with good friction and yet less abrasive than gritstone. There are plenty of jamming cracks, yet it also runs to sharp edge holds, incuts and pockets. The trouble is it is invariably steep and as with any area where the grading has been left to the locals it is easy to get sandbagged.

Follow the A1 north from Newcastle for about 50 miles, past Alnwick to BELFORD VILLAGE - turn off on the B6349 towards

Tensions in a wild garden

May committee meeting

We discussed the club's failure to reach a quorum at the last AGM and felt that the most opportune moment for securing a quorum to discuss rule changes would be immediately before the photo meet. There was a consensus on the committee that 20% would provide all the safeguards for which a quorum is intended while still enabling us to conduct our business.

Use of Heathy Lea has increased since refurbishment completed by a recent mini working party. The re-roofing of Tan-yr-Wyddfa and the works associated with the outbreak of dry rot have been started. Bill Kenyon's Wilmorton working party will go ahead with the external decoration.

The 1992 meets list will be discussed at the next committee meeting, so if you have any strong ideas on how it should look, or better still, if you would like to lead a meet, please contact the Meets sec.

RT

Knowing when to cut your losses

Dovedale evening meet

Discouraging weather, which was not as bad as last year's, meant few climbers turned up and in the end only Left hand route, Vener's and Beginner's Luck were climbed. A larger walking party strode out in the Manifold and met up with the climbers in The George at Alstonefield.

RT

Hives of activity

Family meet

This meet was held at Tan-yr-Wyddfa as usual and I had hoped that moving it to summer half term would increase the uptake in anticipation of better weather. In the end only two families attended but enjoyed some of the finest conditions seen on a Welsh meet for some years and the best weather in the UK! Only one family had come equipped for these freak conditions; fortunately they were generous with their soothing potions. A good deal of walking was done by all. Climbing took place in the Llanberis Pass and Cwm Silyn where we also swam. A visit to Anglesey failed to locate the ultimate bike shop or the working windmill. The dry ski slope and toboggan run at Llandudno were visited and there was a run up Snowdon. See y'all next time!

RT

sober. From the village square continue in the direction of Wooler and the camp site is abandoned, relatively on the right. There are caravans on the site but there is a tent area in a pleasant situation.

There are two pubs in the village. On Friday night I plan to meet in THE BLACK SWAN, but visit THE BLUE BELL on Saturday as this offers good food.

The premier area near Belford is Bowden Doors, but for a first time visit Kylvoe or Kylvoe in the Wood might be more amenable. Hopefully we will sample all the crags as they are all extremely accessible, only a short distance from the road.

If we decide to check out all the major areas, a possibility for Sunday is to head SE to the Wanney's near the Newcastle-Otterburn road, A696 or to Crag Lough directly under Hadrian's Wall.

There is a new edition of the Northumberland guide published 1989, but it is probably sufficient to use Bill Birkett and John White's guide Rock Climbing in Northern England, published 1990.

Although primarily a rock climbing meet, there is obviously wide scope for walking and paragliding if that is your predilection. OS sheet 75 covers the Belford area, sheet 74 includes the Cheviots further west and sheet 87 covers the relevant part of Hadrian's Wall.

I shall be around over the next few weeks to lobby for support on my meet, but if anyone has a query or needs advice they can try contacting my disembodied voice on 0246 569134 and I will call them back or they can use local initiative to track me down in Derbyshire, Cheshire or Merseyside wherever I happen to be.

31 August - 7 September Lundy

Bobby Gilbert

There will be a non-teachers' meet in the first week of term on magnificent Lundy in the Bristol Channel. The Landmark Trust control all the accomodation including camping, so to book, ring them on 0628 825925 with your plastic handy.

PAST EVENTS AND ANCIENT HISTORY

No rush to Manchester.

Colin Hobday's Derbyshire Walk

As a change from previous walks, I turned this into a weekend meet based on Heathy Lea. Saturday afternoon saw a good turnout of Dreads on Birchen's on a cold afternoon with the odd snow shower for good measure. The evening barbecue proved successful. With a large log fire to keep warm some managed to sit it out all evening while others retreated to the Wheatsheaf.

On Sunday, there was a damp start to the walk along the edges to Froggatt and the Chequers for a liquid lunch before returning to Heathy Lea. Despite the weather, there was an excellent turnout of about 30 Dreads and friends.

CH

HUT BOOKINGS

Tan-yr-Wyddfa

June	7 - 8	Vibram MC 16 beds
	14 - 15	? Oread meet
	21 - 22	Yorkshire Ramblers (whole hut)
	23 - 28	Wilmorton College WF
	28 - 29	Gordon Gadsby (10 beds)
July	5 - 6	?
	8 -	ABMSAC (12 beds)
	12 -	Derby MC (12 beds)
	15 - 18	Ilkeston Ramblers (9 beds)
July 19 - Aug 31		Summer Oread use

Heathy Lea

June	21 - 22	Keith Gregson (whole hut)
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N.B. I will be on holiday in the first two weeks of July. Please contact Chuck Hooley for last minute bookings.
Colin Hobday

NEW MEMBER

Welcome to Mike Moss who was elected to full membership of the Oread at the May committee meeting.

NEXT EDITION

I intend to publish the next edition on Tuesday, 2 July. Please send all written material to me at 61 West End, Wirksworth DE4 4EG to arrive by Monday, 24 June. I especially look forward to hearing from Roger Larkam (again) and me (again).

Rob Tresidder

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