



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 1998

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Summary

Dec 1 (Tues) Indoor Meet Ockbrook
Dec 13 (Wed) Black Rocks
Dec 26 (Sat) Boxing day Brassington
Jan 1 (Fri) The George Alstonfield

Nov 3 (Tues) Indoor Meet Royal Oak Ockbrook (8pm) Jamie Fisher, Beyond The Savage Mountain.

Jamie is a young mountaineer in the traditional mould. Many exciting ascents in the Alps including the Walker, the Croz, the central pillar of Freney, NE spur of the Droites etc. He is an enthusiastic photographer and regular contributor to Climber magazine. He has cycled up all the routes in Classic Rock (or something like that) but on this occasion he will speak about an attempt this summer on the E face of Savoia Kangri immediately to the west of K2.

Dec 4/5 Bullstones B West

I am going to do something I have never done before - walk to Tan yr Wyddfa. Friday night meeting place will be the "Gwydyr" at Dolwyddelan - turn left off the A5 just before the Waterloo Bridge at Bettws - leaving at closing time for a bivouac on the slopes of Moel Farlwyd.

Saturday route follows the undulating watershed that forms the county boundary, taking us via Cnicht to Nantmor, where in days gone by we could have caught a train to ydd - ddu. We shall have to walk it.

An early start Sunday should see us back over the Aran Col and the Gwynant for a lunch time pint in Dolwyddelan.

Tan yr Wyddfa is booked for the weekend and available for normal use but please remember that there could be a dozen or so wet weary bodies turning up on Saturday night - get that fire going!

Dec 13 (Wed) Black Rocks

Having failed in my attempt to appoint a meet leader for the purposes of a write up, I have no alternative but to subject you once again to my scintillating prose. Established members will need no description of the proceedings, but for the benefit of the young and innocent, the Oread traditionally meet at Black Rocks at about 8 pm on a miserable winters night and do a token route or more by head torch, or even no illumination at all, before retiring to a nearby hostelry. This is an opportunity to show the prospective members and newcomers who have only recently got to know us during the off season, that the Oread does in fact still climb. Conditions will probably be particularly damp, lacking in vestigial friction and above zero with the ground below excellent for "clarting up" ones rock boots. Afterwards in the *Rising Sun* there will be a revolting display of drunkenness by W***n and his ilk. Newcomers should make prior arrangements to rendezvous with a climbing partner as people are unrecognisable at the crag.

Dec 26 (Sat) Boxing Day Brassington George Reynolds

Having been delegated by the meets secretary to lead the Boxing day walk, I will try and keep it traditional by a) arriving at the Miners Arms, Brassington at lunch time, and b) I will endeavour to lead the meet. Commencing at the Middleton Top car park at 10 30 am. for 10 45 am.. Walking to the Miners will be via Anne Lees farm, Griffe Grange, Harborough Rocks and Brassington, and returning sometime before dark via Carsington, Hopton and the Trail - hoping for no fog.

Jan 1 New Year Walk The George Alstonfield Clive Russell

This is the only meet I ever lead which attracts more than a small handful of customers. (I

have no illusions, either, that the seasonally larger attendance is in any way connected with my personal charm). The George has the most accommodation for the seasoned drinker, only the route can be varied. We shall meet at the Manifold Valley visitor centre just West of Hume End on B5054 at 10 30 am. ready to move off shortly afterwards, (car park £2 per day), and stroll up to the George via Manifold Way, Ecton Hill, Gateham Grange and Narrowdale. West and other hard men, according to the seasonally adjusted definition, will have ample scope for taking voluntary additional exercise by going down to Wetton Mill and possibly ascending the limestone bluff. I shall make no attempt to co-ordinate the drunken shambles of a return journey for which a variety of easy routes is available, such as that via Gypsy Bank and Beresford Dale Ford. Once again, unless the temperature drops considerably, the going may well be extremely unlikely to cause shin splints, and some alternative indoor footwear would be a good idea.

FUTURE EVENTS

23/24 Jan Little Langdale Nick Evans

This is the return of an old favourite. We have only the Fylde Hut this time so there are only 16 places. Book early to avoid disappointment

For those who have not been here before the hut is down the lane on the left after the Three Shires pub. It is in the middle of 3 cottages, address 2 Newhouses Little Langdale. Grid Ref: 315 030. There is a small car park opposite. I think the pub does not do meals in the winter so bring your own grub.

The hut is handy for both Coniston and Langdale areas. There used to be ice climbing in the days when we had winters. There is sheltered rock climbing in slate quarries

nearby, and it is not far to the shops and teas houses of Ambleside.
Ring me on 01332 774221 to book a place.

HUT NEWS

Bookings Tan Yr Wyddfa

Dec 4-5	Oread	
Dec 11-12	Southampton Rats	16 beds
Dec 18-19	Vacant	
Jan 8-9	Kinder M.R.	16 beds
Jan 15-16	Oread meet.	
Jan 22-23	Bedford MC.	16 beds
Jan 29-30	Yorkshire Ramblers	16 beds

Bookings Heathy Lea

Dec 11-12	Polaris	Cottage
Jan 1999	No Bookings	

Hut Fees

During 1999 fees will be as follows:

Tan Yr Wyddfa

Members	£2.00
Provisional members	£3.50
Guests	£4.50

Heathy Lea

Members	£2.00
Provisional members	£3.25
Guests	£3.25
day fee	£1.00
(day fee includes use of cottage)	

Cash Box

The cash box at Heathy Lea has been stolen. This was noticed on about Nov 1. This event is very disturbing because there was no damage or forced entry, and the box was routinely hidden. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that a club member or guest with a key and knowledge of our routine has some knowledge of this, however much one would wish to. If anyone has any information regarding this matter will they please inform

Colin Hobday or Chuck Hooley of the circumstances.

PAST EVENTS

Dovedale Dash

There was a bombshell on Nov 1 when the Dash was cancelled for the first time this century. Most people would be less disappointed than me, and the freak wet weather cannot be controlled, but I suspect the real reason was more connected with the movement of motor cars than anything else, and that really is a shame if my conjecture is correct, and we should re-double our efforts to be environmentally friendly (adopt the Brian West ration of road space per person per day!).

Autumn Amble

After 3 days of continuous rain. Sunday dawned bright and clear, leaving us with only the gale force wind to worry about. The lucky thirteen enjoyed a grand amble along the easy trail beside the three reservoirs.

After an early lunch, nine of us made an interesting ascent of Birchin Clough. As we scrambled over the rocks the strong wind blew plumes of water from the numerous cascades high into the air. Later on the crest of Raven Stones. Nick and Pam climbed on to the highest points of the spectacular Trinnacle, crouching on the rock for fear of being blown away!

Pete checked his wind gauge and it registered well over 60 mph.

We continued along the edge of Saddleworth Moor with great views of northern hills and towns and after a couple of miles reached Chew Reservoir, the highest in England. We descended the service road, forded the river, then took the track below Wimbury Rocks

(The wooden bridge had been blown away in the preceding storms) to Dovestones car park.

A fine meal in the Snake Inn ended a great day out - on the walk George and Janet Reynolds, Nick Evans, Pam Storer, Pete and Judy Scott, Mike, Helen Emma and Thomas Hayes (who gallantly managed part way), Chris ? (prospective member) and Margaret. Thank you all for coming.

Gordon Gadsby

Joint 50Th And Halloween Party Heathy Lea

Thank you to Oreads and friends who came and made the evening (does "evening" extend to 3 am.) a stomping success. It was a bright starlit night and the visions of assorted ageing (male) Oreads variously bewigged in green curls (Brian West), a sparkling disco dance affair plus excruciating tights (Tony Raphael) and blond waves (that one was passed round a bit), will long warm the cockles of my heart. Gill (pussy cat) Keeling kept them in order with lashings of her tail.

Thank you too everyone who generously gave to Lukemia Research. At the Smithfield, Party, and Ockbrook I collected £61.80. A pity the dash was cancelled as I planned to collect there too.

Freda Raphael

SHORT NOTICES

Subscriptions

These fall due on 1 Jan 1999. There has been no increase again this year. Rates are as follows:

Full membership	£16.00
Family membership	£24.00

Senior membership £8.00
Senior family membership £16.00
Provisional membership £8.00
BMC membership £3.50 before
Mar 31!

The BMC are even more keen this year to have all members of affiliated clubs as members for reasons of civil liability insurance.

Indoor Winter Lecture Series 1988/9

1 December Jamie Fisher "Beyond the
Savage Mountain
5 January TBA
2 February Phil Bartlett
2 March TBA

Membership

Congratulations to Gill Keeling who was elected to full membership of the Oread at the November committee meeting.

Pam Norris has applied for membership of the Oread, and any member with views on her suitability is asked to make these known to a committee member before the December committee meeting (8th Dec?). (Husband Nodge is reputed to have lost the relevant bits of paper, seeing Pam paying cheaper hut fees should stir him up!).

NEXT EDITION

I hope to post this on *Wednesday 29 Dec. It is essential that all material reaches me by Mon 20 Dec. Please remember to allow time for the Christmas postal delays. I look forward to hearing from Brian West and to receiving particulars of the January indoor meet. Please remember that unless the schedule is adhered to I shall be unable to get the*

*newsletter photocopied over
Christmas.*
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