



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

NEWSLETTER FOR SEPTEMBER 1998

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Summary

Sep 2	Wildcat
Sep 5/6	Wye Valley
Sep 12/13	Family Meet TYW
Sep 20 (Sun)	September Saunter
Sep 26/27	Avon Gorge
Oct 3/4	Heathy Lea
Oct 6 (Tues)	First indoor meet

Sep 2(Wed) Wildcat

Mountain Limestone freaks, i.e. the majority these days, will be glad to escape from the rigours of Cratcliffe and return to familiar ground. (I suspect that some are uneasy at being removed from the semi-urban traffic noise and crowded pubs of the Derwent Valley. (Refreshment in the Princess Vic after climbing).

Sep 5/6 Wye Valley Tony Raphael

As the first half of the summer has been dismal for climbing, it's obviously saving the best of the sunshine for September. The Wye Valley offers superb climbing in spectacular and glorious surroundings. Watch the Severn Bore roll upstream while savouring the delights of such brilliant 200ft+ routes as Zelda (HS) and King Kong (HVS) on Wintour's Leap; marvel at the delectation of the unquarried Dolomitic limestone of Shorn Cliff while it basks in the afternoon sun.

This is the meet you mustn't miss - starred routes at all grades!

We will be camping at The Beeches campsite [ref SO 5480061 near, but not on, Madgett's farm. The campsite is basic (toilets and cold water, no showers) but has excellent views - it is an easy, short walk from the site to Shorn Cliff.

How to get there: if you want to avoid paying the Severn Bridge toll take the A48 SW out of Gloucester and about 1.5 miles before Chepstow take the right turn marked

(probably) to Tutshill, then turn right on to the B4228. Follow this for about 4 miles and take the privately signposted turning (L) marked to Madgett's Farm/ Beeches Farm, go through the farmyard & gate, turn right and you're there.

I will be in the Rising Sun Inn [approx ref ST 542964] on the B4228 at Wooderoft/Wintour's Leap on Friday evening - see you there. For any further information contact me at the Smithfield, on the crag or ring me on 01509 672175.

Sep 12/13 Family Meet Tan Yr Wyddfa Micheal Hayes

Following on from Mike Wynne's meet earlier this year it is once again time for the younger element of the Oread to enjoy the delights of Tan-Y-Wyddfa. At present I am looking for a co-leader for this meet as I will not be flying back from the States until Saturday Morning, any volunteers ??

I do plan to be at the hut at about dinner time to take up what remains of my leaders duties.

I will be in the Alps until the 14th of August after which you can contact me to arrange beds etc

Sep 20 (Sun) September Saunter Harry Pretty

Meet Tideswell Dale Car Park (G.R. 154 743), one mile South of Tideswell, B6049, at 10.15 - to Miller's Dale (Litton Mill), South and South East over Brushfield Hough, to Car Park at Lees Bottom on A6, and uphill via Taddington Fields to Taddington village and pub (Queen's Arms)

Return by various alternatives downhill to Priestcliffe or Priestcliffe Ditch (Limestone Way). Maintain Limestone Way by Monksdale Farm (just North of Miller's Dale) due North, and back to car park by series of alternative green lanes and footpaths.

This is not a long walk but is adequate for the state of my knees at present (does he expect

an improvement? Ed.) The Tideswell Dale car park (parking free) is probably busy on Sundays, there is a bigish layby in Miller's Dale (en route) below Ravenstor Y.H. (rear entrance) - which may be useful. There is also a car park at Lees Bottom on A6 for anyone a short approach to Taddington. Anyone wanting a longer route to the pub could take in Deep Dale and Wheal Lane from the A6.

Sep 26/27 Avon Gorge Gill Heys

The campsite is at Homestead Farm, Cleeve, 9 miles south of Bristol. Facilities include a toilet block and wash room (no showers). There are a few shops and a pub (The Lord Nelson) in Cleeve itself, which is only a mile away from the campsite. How to get there: come off the M5 motorway at junction 21. Follow signs for Cleeve on the A370. Go through the village, passing the Lord Nelson pub on the right hand side. Soon after the pub turn right onto Cleeves Hill Road, after about a mile you will come to Homestead Farm on your left. The campsite entrance is next on the right and the sign marking it's entrance reads 'Kingswood'. Campsite fees are £3.00 per person per night, no charge for cars. I will be in the Lord Nelson on Friday evening eagerly awaiting your arrival.

October 3/4 Heathy Lea Keith Gregson

I intend to have a "traditional weekend" at the Derbyshire Hut.

Thus the meet will begin on Friday evening by dropping off gear at the hut, bagging bed space, and then walking up to the Robin Hood for a get together and discussion of the morning's activities. Those of you unfamiliar with recent developments in the "Climbers Den" will be impressed, gone are the days of sitting around spitting teeth at the pool players. The back bar really is quite civilised now.

We will make a reasonably early start from the Hut on Saturday (9:30'ish) in order to stroll up

the edges, take in the odd climb and make it to the Foxhouse for lunch at about one-o'clock. After lunch I intend to visit Lawrencefield and/or Yamcliffe for a route or two before taking tea at the Grindleford Cafe, then back to the Hut by a route dictated by the mood and the weather. We'll let the evening develop, as it will.

Sunday will be spent either climbing on Gardoms and Birchen or walking gently to the Devonshire at Bealey, doubtless we can find enough Oreads to keep both options open.

I look forward to an enjoyable weekend in good company. Please get in touch (either at The Smithfield or via 792147) to reserve bedspace etc.

Oct 6 (Tues) First Indoor Meet

I hope to announce details of the first indoor meet in the next newsletter. In the meantime, keep this date free.

PAST EVENTS

Summer Stroll

Twelve Oreads assembled in the car park at Derbyshire Bridge for what was going to be a wet and windy day over the moors - July ! (I had envisaged a lovely sunny day and had organised an early start - thinking the car park would be filling -up fast. Not so. No problem.

Approximately another two cars, 'Anyway it's only raining at the moment, so let's get going'. As we left, it really was only slightly damp, but the mist was low, spoiling most of the views that are to be had in this area. As we got more committed to the walk over Axe Edge, the rain came back with a vengeance, being driven at us by a strong wind. (Glad you missed it now ?) When we were quite wet we stopped to put on over-trousers, although I noticed that Harry had put his on whilst still in the car park. Brian West and Helen caught us up as we dropped off Axe Edge and there we

lost most of the strong wind and had a more pleasant walk to Three Shires Head. Here the rain was quite heavy and we ended up sheltering under the two bridges, where food and coffee were consumed with the river lapping around our feet.

The pub, when we got to it was a lot drier and more convivial, although there wasn't much room and fourteen wet Oreads were to be found standing round the bar. Here we were joined by Mike and Sue Wren (via the Cat and Fiddle) and also Chuck, Margaret and Ernie via Chuck's Shogun, in the car park). The pub was good and we enjoyed our stay and it had turned a bit drier outside but in the end it was time to leave. 'This isn't my rucksack and it's the only one left - Pete Janes. The usual comments like 'It's better than yours anyway, take it'. Pete was not impressed at all and was soon back at the bar - not for another pint, but to leave his name and address. Waiting Oreads outside were soon to see a young couple running down the road, with what was Pete's rucksack. Evidently their car keys were in the one that Pete had been left with. A dry/rainy walk back to the cat and Fiddle, where some of us had coffee would you believe, they had run out. Back at the car park everyone said that they had had a good time and seemed to mean it. Thank you all for coming. Also on the walk were Pete Amour, Colin Hobday, George and Janet, Andy, Derek, Rusty and Margaret, Mike and Jill.
Dave Weston

HUT NEWS

Bookings Tan Yr Wyddfa

Sep 4-5	Perran/Shreeve	16 beds
Sep 11-12	Oread	
Sep 14	R Hopkinson	4 beds
Sep 18-19	Aylesbury MC	16 beds
Sep 25-26	Hucknall MC	16 beds
Oct 2-3	Christian Rock	16 beds
Oct 9-10	Derby Nomads	16 beds

Oct 16-17	G Gadsby	Whole hut
Oct 23-24	S Cheshire MC	
Oct 26-29	D Hall	16 beds
Oct 30-31	Vacant	

Bookings Heathy Lea

Sep 4-5	H Pretty/Guest	cottage
Sep 4-5	D Weston/Guest	barn 4
Sep 11-12	Slough MC	cottage
Sep 18-19	North Kingston	cottage
Sep 27	Work Party	
Oct 2-3	Oread	
Oct 9-10	Northumbria MC	cottage
Oct 30-31	West/Raphael	cottage/barn

Heathy Lea Sep 27 (Sun)

For anyone not attending the Avon Gorge meet there will be a mini work party.

Jobs Tidy up the hut surrounds, grass cutting etc., wood cutting for the winter, clean cottage/barn. Anyone interested is asked to contact the hut sub - committee.

SHORT NOTICES

Climbing

This does take place despite the huge expenditure of energy on Huts, Highland Railway, Journals etc., praiseworthy though they all be. I hope to have a detailed account of deeds in the Alps in due course but in the meantime Mike Hayes should be congratulated on his ascent of the Cassin Route

Unknown to many, a sub culture of creaking wrecks including myself still continue to ascend lesser routes within their capabilities, staving off the dreaded down - classification to "rambler", and within this category Reg Squires recently exceeded our estimate of his standard at Cratcliffe in less than ideal conditions by leading North Climb. This again serves as a reminder that the merit of any ascent is relative to one's own as well as an absolute standard of difficulty.

Heathy Lea, Haloween

Mesdames and Messrs (is this correct? I mean in respect of grammar rather than transexuality or transvestitism) Freda Raphael, and Brian West will acheive the ultimate maturity of a half century on this planet at approximately the same time. Accordingly, a joint major celebration has been arranged at Heathy Lea. It is conjectured that intoxicating substances will be on hand. MS Raphael is determined upon running the Dash the following morning. Mr. West entertains some doubts. Club members are requested to be present.

50 Year Anniversary Journal 1999

Progress Report

The object is to produce a hard bound book of approx 250-300 pages with 80 B/W photographs and eight pages in colour, not unlike the recently published C.C. Centenary journal. There is a picture selection sub-committee (Hobday, Radcliffe, Ashcroft and Gadsby) who are also assisting with technical matters i.e. packaging and printing costs. I am also exploring the possibilities of grants through various Trusts and any commercial value from sales. I anticipate that a large position will be taken up by extracts from old Newsletter/Journals going back to 1952. The remainder will comprise articles, essays, etc. applicable to the present, but with some emphasis on the history of the club. My time is now fully occupied photocopying extracts from previously published Newsletters etc, and cutting and pasting up to form a core composition for further editorial selection. It is a long and laborious task. I have received a moderate supply of photographs for possible inclusion, but I certainly require more. Preferably the photos should illustrate identifiable persons at

different stages of the club, in action, or in groups. Ken Wilson advises me: photographs are important. They should mainly concern people and really good historical action shots. You should also celebrate in visual terms your club's main achievements. Good portraits, groups and conversation pieces are likely to be most historical value (commercial sales). Pretty landscapes and ordinary crag shots have no commercial value So apart from written articles, I am looking for photos that fulfil these parameters ù from UK, Alps, expeditions, or from anywhere where the Oread has operated. Old pictures concerning the huts, annual dinners, Ilam Hall pantomimes, Dovedale Dash are particularly sought. I would also like something representative (photos/articles) of the current young climbing stars who, up to now, have shown no apparent interest. Perhaps they are genuinely no interested but I suspect, that if they are not included through lack of effort they they will be sorry in say 20-30 years time. This journal will be a definitive piece of mountaineering history of the story of a remarkable club from 1949-1999. It is perhaps odd that, in some ways, many distinguished members of other clubs have displayed more interest in my efforts than the current membership of the Oread.
Harry Pretty Editor - 04.08.98

NEXT EDITION

I hope to post this on **Friday 3 Oct. It is essential that all material reaches me by Thursday 24 Sep!** look forward to **hearing from Mike Moss and Gordon Gadsby**

Clive Russell (Newsletter Editor)

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